LIVING STAR / F4

Joey de Leon is a 'collector of collections' from Ang Kiukok to hotel keys

ENTERTAINMENT / E1

Papa Pitt tells PDI he's high on flying, Shiloh and Angelina

BUSINESS / B1

Inflation down to its lowest rate in 2 years

NEWS / A7

In this corner at Senate: Jamby, Nene vs JPE; Joker vs Drilon

Wife of top Indon terror suspect captured in Jolo

By Jim Gomez
The Associated Press

GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN SULU HAVE CAPtured a woman believed to be the wife of a top Indonesian terror suspect wanted for attacks, including the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings that killed 202 people, officials said yesterday.

The Indonesian wife of Dulmatin, who goes by

WIFE/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, October 6, 2006 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 300 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Some Forbes Park folk may be squatters

By Dona Pazibuggan

SOSYAL NA SQUATTERS, MAY KOTSE!

FOR THE FIRST TIME, the rich may get a feel of the "squatter" life.

The developer of the housing project for military personnel at Fort Bonifacio claimed that

SOME/ A17

High power cost probed

Gov't energy privatization plans at risk, say analysts

By Abigail L. Ho

THE OPERATOR OF THE new Philippine wholesale electricity spot market yesterday said it was investigating a government agency for possible price manipulation that resulted in sudden spikes in the electric bills of factories and households in Luzon.

Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC) said its probe was focused on Power Sector Assets Liabilities and Management Corp. (PSALM), the government agency in charge of selling the state's power plants and the national electricity grid.

"There is suspicion of manipulation in prices," PEMC president Lasse Holopainen said at a news conference.

Analysts said the probe could further frustrate energy privatization plans.

"Some investors will be turned off by this, I'm sure," said Astro del Castillo, managing director of local investment firm First Grade Holdings. "They will be thinking twice about investing in the Philippines."

PEMC said the average price of power in the spot market's third month of operation (Aug. 26-Sept. 25) surged to P4.853 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). This was almost 75 percent higher than the P2.788 per kWh in the market's first month of operation.

PSALM denied the allegation, which

HIGH POWER/ A17

LET MARKET forces determine the true value of the peso, President Arroyo tells investors during her speech before the country's foreign business chambers on Thursday. As the peso strengthens, Philippine exports become more expensive to foreign buyers. The $3 billion represents the target amount government hopes to attract in foreign investments yearly, which will be the topic during a summit of government officials and business executives hosted by Ms Arroyo. LYN RILLON

GMA tells exporters: I won't stop rise of peso

THE PESO'S BULL RUN MAY HAVE SAVED the government about P17 billion ($340 million) in interest payments in the first eight months, but the local currency's rapid appreciation against the US dollar has resulted in lower earnings for the country's exporters.

While sympathizing with the plight of the exporters, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she had no plans of halting the peso's rise that has boosted her administration's image here and abroad.

"We share the concern of the export industry over the continued strength of the peso but, as a policy, we leave it to market forces to determine the true value of our currency," Ms Arroyo said in a speech before foreign business chambers in the Philippines.

Exporters earlier warned the government they may not be able to meet its export earnings target of $50 billion this year due to the quick rise of the peso. As the peso strengthens, Philippine exports

GMA TELLS/ A17

NURSING EXAM LEAK

GMA urged: Order retake now, not wait for CA

By Jerome Aning, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG SHOULD GO AHEAD and issue the executive order for the retake of the tainted nursing licensure examination and not wait for the Court of Appeals to rule on the petition of a group opposed to a retake, Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said yesterday.

"We know litigation takes a long time," Brion told reporters. "The CA decision will likely pave the way for motions for reconsideration that will go to the Supreme Court. And that kind of litigation will take years."

President Macapagal-Arroyo had assigned Brion, a former associate justice of the appellate court, to draft the executive order. He submitted the draft on Tuesday, but Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said on Wednesday that it had been sent back to him for "review and restudy."

Brion expressed surprise that Malacañang had made an announcement about waiting for the appellate court to decide on the petition when Ms Arroyo herself had sufficient powers to "shortcut" the process and order a retake.

"I cannot understand why some officials would say they're deferring the matter to the CA. This is agonizing for those who rely on the integrity of the professional licensure exams. I hope this ends soon," he said.

Brion also said shortening the process would ease the suffering of the board passers who had yet to take their professional oath, and other stakeholders such as doctors, hospitals, review centers and nursing schools.

It was Ermita who announced that the

GMA URGED/ A6

AFP refuses to blame RSBS' former execs for funds' loss

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY YESTERDAY REFUSED to blame its retired officers for the financial mess in the Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS), its pension fund.

Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino acknowledged "shortcomings" in the management of the soldiers' contributions to the RSBS, but did not name the former officials responsible for the bad investments and allegedly anomalous deals.

"There will be a massive information drive to explain to the soldiers what really happened at the RSBS. We'll explain it to them," said Tolentino, the Armed Forces' deputy chief of staff for personnel (J1).

"There were shortcomings in the management, we are not hiding that," he said.

But when asked how he would explain to the soldiers why their money in RSBS—which was supposed to fund their pensions—did not grow, Tolentino was at a loss for words.

He shrugged and smiled slowly, say-

AFP REFUSES/ A8

Subic rape trial ends; verdict set on Nov. 27

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE TRIAL OF THE HISTORIC RAPE case filed by a Filipino woman against four US Marines came to a close yesterday, four months after it began, with the judge promising to deliver a verdict at least a month before the case marks its first trial anniversary.

Neither the complainant, "Nicole," nor the four accused were present when Judge Benjamin Pozon of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139 presided over a 20-minute hearing to set a tentative date for the verdict.

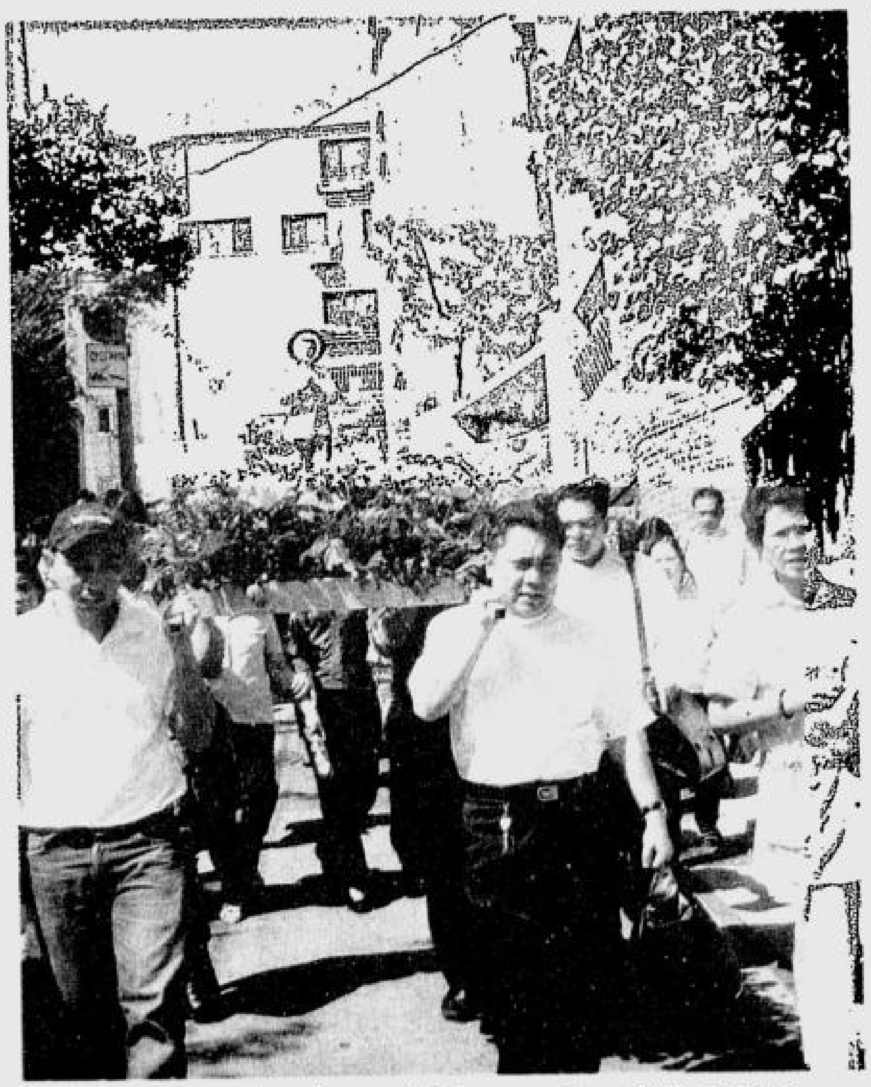
"The case is considered submitted for resolution ... Unless there will be problems, let's set the promulgation of the decision on Nov. 27, tentatively," Pozon said.

Nov. 27 is exactly a month away from Dec. 27, which marks a year since Nicole's complaint against the US servicemen on liberty at the Subic Bay Freeport was elevated to the Olongapo Regional Trial Court—the first court to handle the case.

As stipulated in the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, Philippine courts

SUBIC RAPE/ A17

Seoul life tough but good for soul



SAN LORENZO RUIZ was honored with a procession on his feast day on Sept. 24 by Filipino Catholics in Seoul. CHRISTIAN ESGUERRA

By Christian V. Esguerra

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA IS SHAPING up as the perfect environment for some Filipinos to renew and nurture their Catholic faith.

Take it from Rene de Guzman, a 26-year-old factory worker employed here more than a year now. He is up for baptism at St. Benedict's Church in Hyehwadong district, home to the largest Filipino community in South Korea.

The Pangasinense will follow in the footsteps of fellow factory worker Chona Lopez, 27, and Lisa Baja, a domestic helper in her 40s. The two had embraced the faith in the thick of their volunteer work at the Hyehwadong Filipino Catholic Community.

On top of the regular Sunday Mass that usually gathers an all-Filipino attendance of between 500 and 1,000, the community holds a regular Wednesday novena, a holy hour every first Friday of the month, and a vigil during the first Saturday of the month.

On Sept. 24, Fathers Jaron and Llubit led a short procession commemorating the Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz from the community's headquarters, a small second-floor room in a residential enclave, to St. Benedict's Church.

This month, members are preparing a number of activities in honor of the rosary.

The fellowship of faith reflected in religious services helped convince the likes of Rene, Chona and Lisa to formally con-

SEOUL/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/05/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Look beyond rob angle, cops urged

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

TARLAC CITY—A LEADER OF THE PHILIPPINE Independent Church yesterday urged police to look beyond robbery as the motive for the killing of Bishop Alberto Ramento, noting "glaring indications" that politics was behind it.

"Initial police investigation reports point to the incident as a mere case of robbery with homicide. However, the Ramento family, the clergy and the faithful of the Diocese of Tarlac believe that the motive is much deeper than what has come out from the spot investigation," Obispo Maximo Godofredo David said in a statement.

David said that for the PIC, also known as the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, the killing was the "inevitable consequence of his principled engagement with the people and their struggle for the fullness of life."

"We denounce in the strongest possible terms this barbaric and dastardly act against a man of the cloth within the premises of his own church," David said.

Ramento, 69, was stabbed dead by two men at the rectory of the San Sebastian parish here on early Tuesday.

'Thoroughly planned'

David said there were "glaring indications" the murder was "thoroughly planned and politically motivated." He said Ramento was not only a well-loved pastor but also a "social prophet, and an icon in the nationalist struggle of the Filipino masses with his uncompromising stand for national sovereignty and patrimony."

"He was a true advocate of just peace," David said of his predecessor, who joined the monitoring panel in the peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front in 1990.

Active in the ecumenical movement, Ramento chaired the National Council of Churches in the Philippines and co-chaired the Ecumenical Bishops Forum of various churches in the country.

As chair of the PIC's Supreme Council of Bishops (SCB), Ramento "strongly condemned the state of political repression and grave situation of human rights violation in the country," David said.

Outspoken Arroyo critic

David described Ramento as an "outspoken critic" of President Macapagal-Arroyo, questioning her legitimacy and urging her to step down.

Ramento also took side with the striking workers of the Hacienda Luisita, a 6,000-has sugar estate owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino.

"The people behind his death might think that they had silenced him and maimed the prophetic voice of the Church. They are mistaken. His death has become like a candle in a burning incense, sparking more fire, enflaming the hearts of the clergy and faithful," said David.

The manhunt for the suspects entered the third day Thursday without yielding results, according to Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, Tarlac provincial police director.

He said the police were not yet looking into the angle of political killing because there were "no signs of that yet."

Suspects

Two suspects in the slaying have identified — Michael Quitalig alias Bembol, and Efren Abaya alias Efren Suarez, both known members of a criminal gang engaged in theft and robbery. Quitalig was convicted and served sentence for theft, and was released from jail only last July 2006.

Bartolome said they were among suspects in two earlier break-ins at Ramento's residence on Sept. 11 and 23.

Before his death, Ramento had disclosed to church leaders, his relatives and human rights campaigners that he had confirmed from his military contacts that he was on the military's order of battle.

Director General Oscar Calderon of the Philip pine National Police said yesterday he had ordered the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to step in and "hasten" the solution of the case.

"It is unfortunate that communist propaganda is attempting to muddle the investigation. But, our investigators are keeping their focus on solving the case," Calderon said.

Church groups protest

In Iloilo city, church leaders from various denominations announced at a news conference they would hold vigils and protest actions to show their indignation at the killing of Ramento.

Those represented included the Convention of Baptist Churches of the Philippines, United Church of Christ of the Philippines, National Priest Organization of the IFI, Western Visayas Ecumenical Council and Promotion of Church People's Response.

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said in a statement Ramento's death was "saddening and shocking."

Lagdameo pointed out that in several pastoral statements, the CBCP has already denounced the increasing number of extra-judicial killings of journalists, activists and militants over the years.

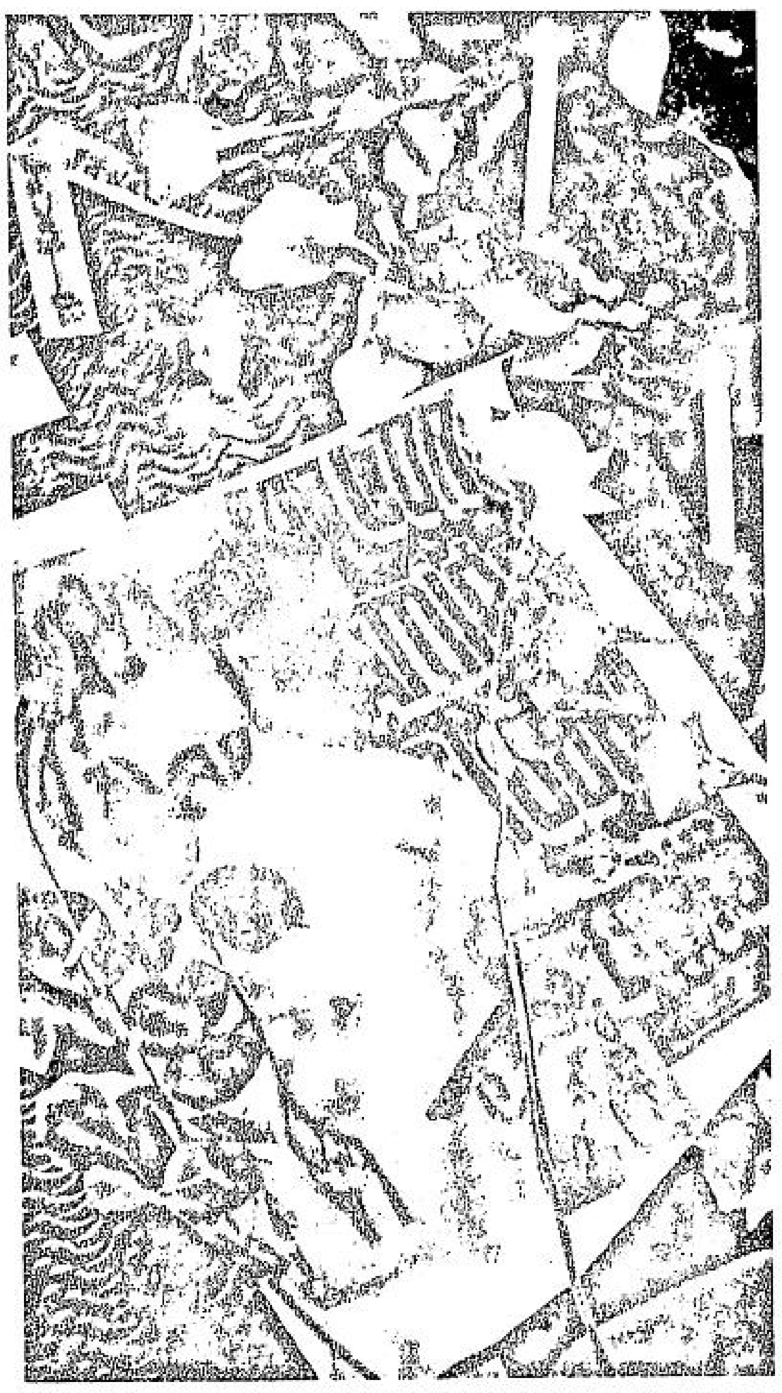
"What is alarming is that so far the actions that have been taken do not yet satisfy the demands of justice especially for the victims and their relatives," said Lagdameo.

'No longer safe'

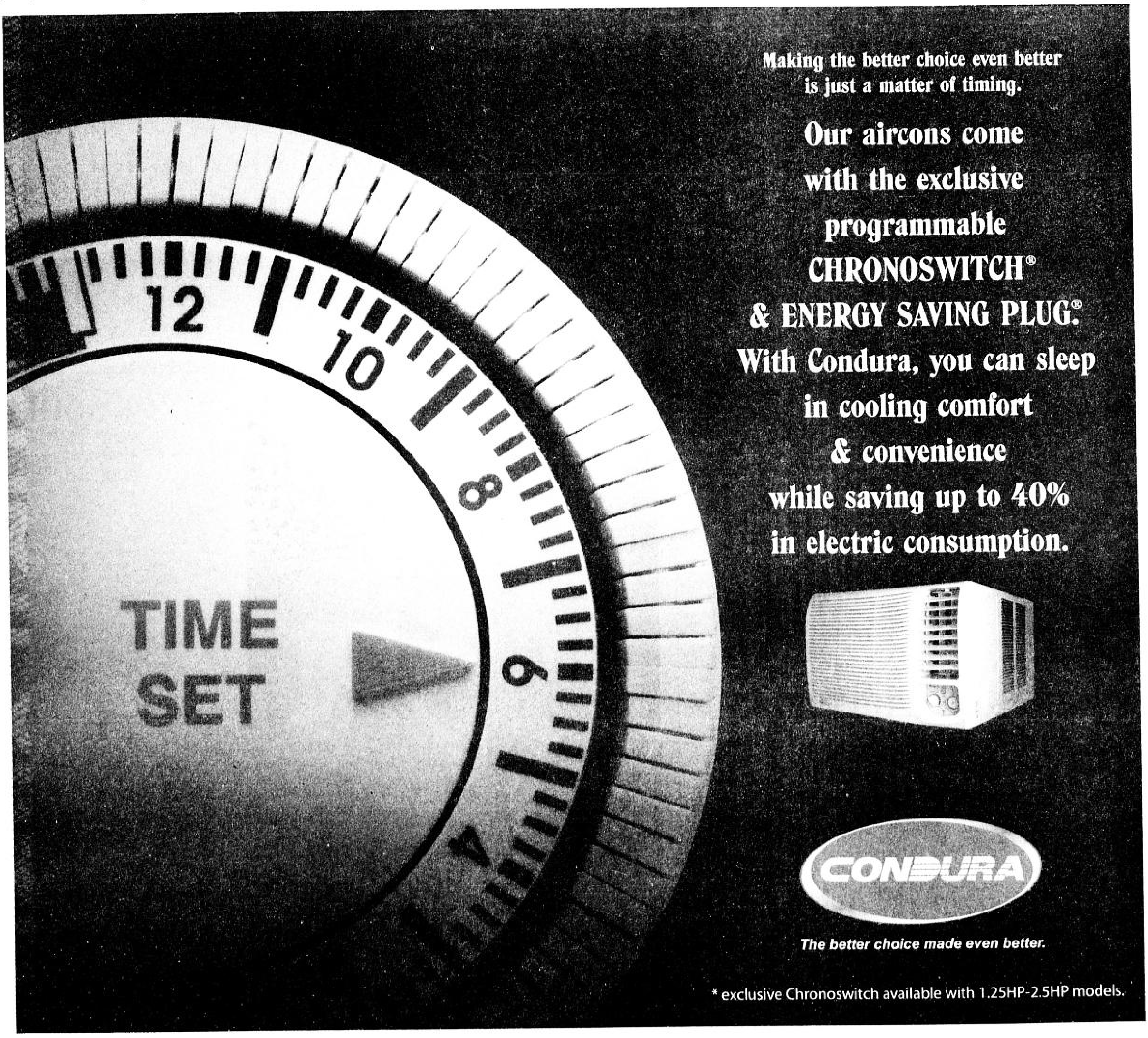
"Will the case of Bishop Ramento to be another reason for us to say that his country is no longer safe for those who announce the truth and denounce immorality?" asked Lagdameo.

Pastor June Gange of the UCCP said Ramento's death only showed that "anybody who proclaims truth and justice could be killed anywhere and anytime."

Bishop Tito Vilches of the IFI Diocese of Guimaras said it was doubtful that robbers killed Ramento because he had no money and there was nothing valuable to steal in the convent. "Is a pastoral ring and pectoral cross worth killing a bishop?" said Vilches. *With reports from Alcuin Papa and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Inquirer Visayas*



FLOWERS and candles offered by sympathizers surround the portrait of slain Aglipayan Bishop Alberto Ramento outside the headquarters of National Council of Churches in the Philippines in Manila. AFP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Court stops dismissal of DPWH usec

By Armand N. Nocum

THE COURT OF APPEALS YESterday restrained the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission from enforcing its order dismissing from service Public Works Undersecretary Salvador Pleyto for allegedly falsifying his statements of assets and liabilities and net worth from 1999 to 2001.

In a resolution penned by Associate Justice Vicente Veloso, the CA First Division issued a 60-day temporary restraining order (TRO) in recognition of Pleyto's rights pending the resolution of the case before the CA.

"So as not to render academic the issues raised in the petition and to preserve the rights of petitioner pending disposition of the incident of preliminary injunction especially so that it appears from the amended petition that he is entitled to the relief demanded, petitioner's verified application for TRO is granted," the CA said.

The court said the TRO would take effect as soon as Pleyto posted an injunction bond of P100,000.

The CA set a hearing on Pleyto's petition for preliminary injunction on October 11.

The PAGC on January 29 recommended Pleyto's dismissal for violating Section 8 of Republic Act 6713 (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees) and Section 7 of RA 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act) which require government functionaries to prepare and file a true, detailed and sworn statement of their assets and liabilities.

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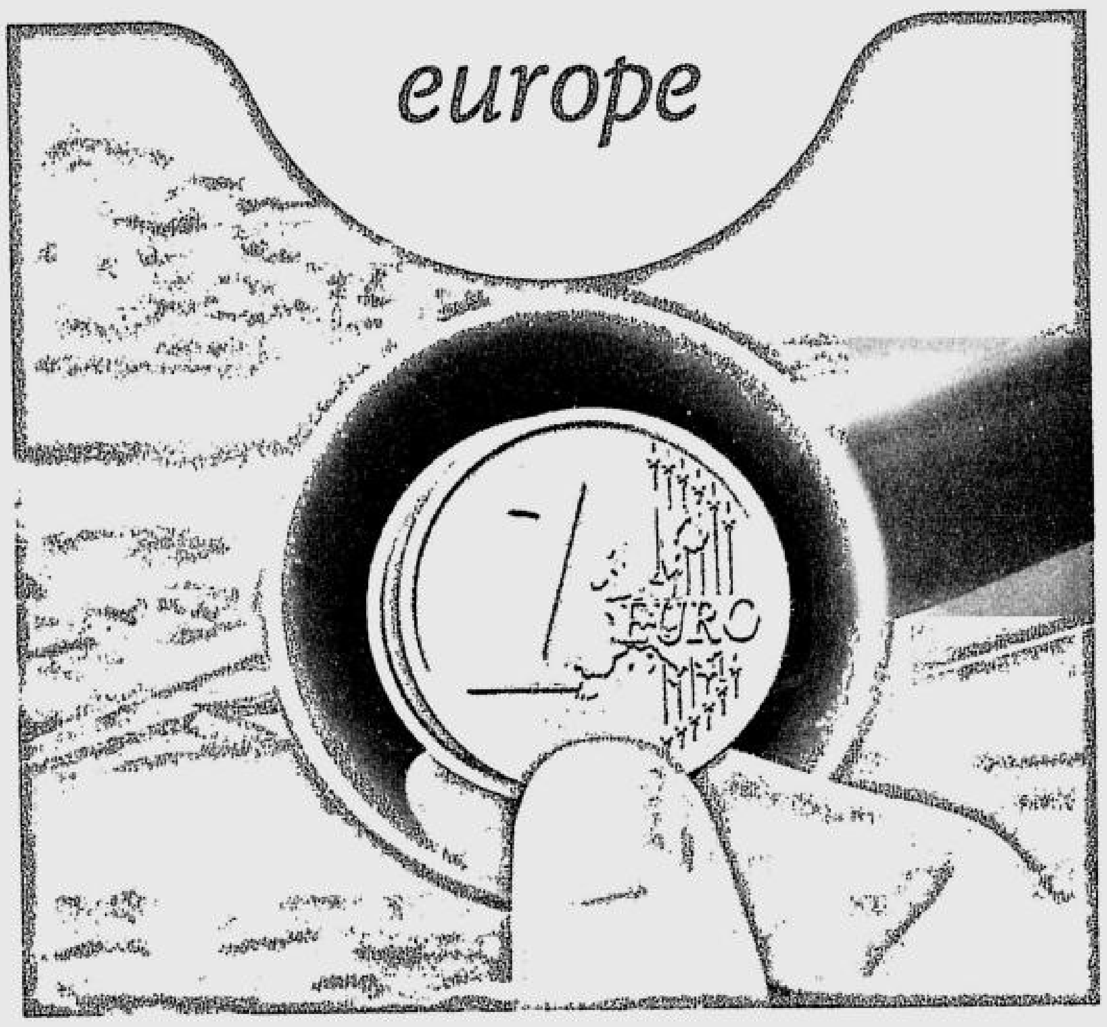

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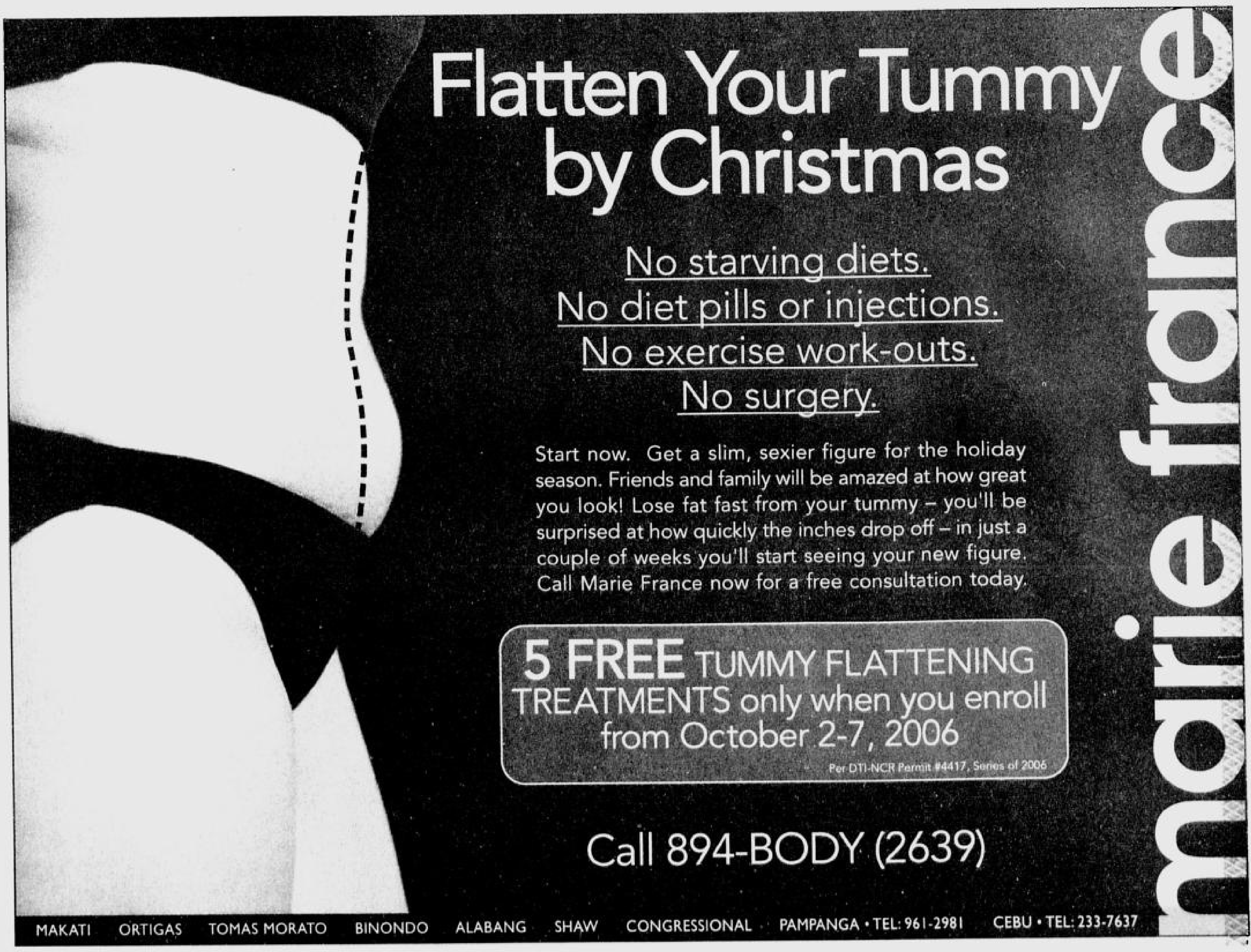

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Snitching doesn't pay, rues broker

By Armand N. Nocum

A BROKERAGE FIRM EXECUTIVE WHO tried to blow the whistle on an alleged oil smuggler has found himself being criminally charged with the very same offense.

Norman A. Galera now regrets having provided the government with the documents showing how the owner of the Oilink International Corp. (Oilink) allegedly smuggled P315 million worth of oil from 2003 to 2004.

For his efforts, Galera is now facing charges of smuggling, tax evasion and falsification of public documents before the justice department.

"It is lamentable that instead of awarding those who bravely come out to expose the illegal activities committed by certain persons against our government, several of our law enforcers, investigators and prosecutors are more than willing to punish supposed heroes while ... helping the criminals go scot-free," Galera said in a petition for reconsideration.

Galera's lawyer, Marcial M. Magsino, said the "fate of Acsa Ramirez" would be repeated if the Department of Justice does not reverse the decision to charge Galera.

Ramirez was the Land Bank officer who was mistakenly linked to an irregularity in the bank that she herself had reported.

"Mr. Galera should not be persecuted and prosecuted but instead be granted immunity from prosecution and [placed under the] witness protection program if our government wishes to run after the real true criminals," Magsino said.

In November 2005, Galera filed a complaint before the Philippine National Police against Paul Co, the owner of Oilink, and two of Galera's colleagues at the Trail Blazers Integrated Corp. (Trail Blazers) and the RNN Shipping and Transport Agency Corp. (RNN). The latter two firms are engaged in the processing of customs clearances and in facilitating the release of goods brought by foreign ships into the country.

Galera, who is president and vice president of Trail Blazers and RNN, respectively, claimed to have accidentally stumbled on company documents showing that Roland Valeriano, the chair of Trail Blazers and RNN, had been allegedly using the firms to help the Batangas-based Oilink to smuggle oil.

Valeriano was allegedly helped in these activities by Noel Aro, who is said to have extensive connections in the Bureau of Customs.

Galera alleged that Oilink, with the help of RNN Shipping, did not declare a third or more of the total quantity of oil that was discharged from the vessel to its depot. He accused Valeriano and Aro of tampering with and destroying the documents showing the correct volume of oil being imported.

In his complaint before the PNP, Galera charged Co, Valeriano and Aro with falsification of public documents, smuggling, violation of the Customs and Tariff Code and plunder.

On Feb. 1, 2006, however, the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group decided to include Galera in the complaint it filed before the DOJ, claiming that Galera could have "conspired" with the three accused and benefited from the crime.

Galera filed a motion for reconsideration in March, but it was denied for "lack of merit" by the DOJ provincial prosecutor Jaime L. Umpa. Instead, the prosecutor granted a motion from Co seeking to have Galera charged with falsification of public documents.

Galera filed a petition for review on April 17, but it was denied by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez who cited a Latin maxim which says in effect that "he who excuses himself accuses himself" (*quis se excusa se accusat*).

Erap wants court to compel Atienza to show X-rated docu

By Norman Bordadora

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA will ask the Manila regional trial court to compel Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to allow the showing of his banned biopic in Plaza Miranda, a designated "freedom park."

Former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez, one of Estrada's legal counsels, said this would be a test case for the constitutional guarantee for free expression, particularly in the light of the Supreme Court's recent decision upholding the right of demonstrators to air their issues in designated freedom parks, even without the mayor's approval.

Atienza denied for the second time on Wednesday the request of Estrada's Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino and Publikasia, producer of Estrada's film biography, for a public exhibition and forum on the controversial newsreel, which was given an X rating by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

Rodriguez said they will file a petition to compel Atienza to reverse his order against the public showing of "Ang Mabuhay Para sa Masa," which he claims is a grave abuse of authority and violation of the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.

Rodriguez said Atienza's move runs counter to the wisdom behind the creation of freedom parks under B.P. 880 as a venue for free expression and political dissent.

"The reason behind the triple-X rating which banned Estrada's biography was political in nature," Rodriguez asserted.

"This validates our position that the newsreel should be allowed a public exhibition at the freedom park," he said. Films shown in freedom parks should also be exempt from MTRCB review, he added.

Manila city legal officer Melchor Monsod, speaking for Atienza, said the city government denied the requests made by Estrada's camp because of MTRCB's rating.

"Actually, it was not Mayor Atienza who rejected the request, it was the MTRCB which first issued a resolution regarding this particular film. We're just being consistent with the MTRCB decision," Monsod said, adding that Estrada's camp should not invoke the freedom park provision.

Corrections

IN THE OCT. 4 ISSUE, an article on Page A8—"RP medical tourism industry to tap European market"—cited a wrong example to support Health Undersecretary Jade del Mundo's assertion that medical procedures "are generally 10 to 20 percent cheaper in the Philippines than in most European countries." Citing coronary artery bypass as an example, the article said such a medical procedure would cost $50,000 in Europe but only $10,000 in the Philippines. In which case, a coronary artery bypass in the Philippines would be 80 percent—not "10 to 20 percent"—cheaper.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, October 6, 2006
26th Week in Ordinary Time
Bruno / Marie-rose Durocher

1st Reading: Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5
Gospel: Luke 10:13-16

Jesus said, "Alas for you Chorazin! Alas for you Bethsaida! So many miracles have been worked in you! If the same miracles had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would already be sitting in ashes and wearing the sackcloth of repentance. Surely for Tyre and Sidon it will be better than for you on the Judgment Day. And what of you, city of Capernaum? Will you be lifted up to heaven? You will be thrown down to the place of the dead.

Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me; and he who rejects me, rejects the one who sent me."

Commentary

God answers Job from the center of the tempest and basically declares that he is God, the maker and creator, the keeper and sustainer of all that is: time, seasons, the earth, the abyss of waters, the expanse of sky, even life and death for all on earth; the light and the darkness. What does Job know of anything, let alone of wisdom? And he learns to be silent. And Jesus echoes God's words; cities, groups, churches, parishes have seen so much of miracles, you would think we would repent. But we do not really listen—and so we do not obey. Are we among those who listen or reject the Word of God?

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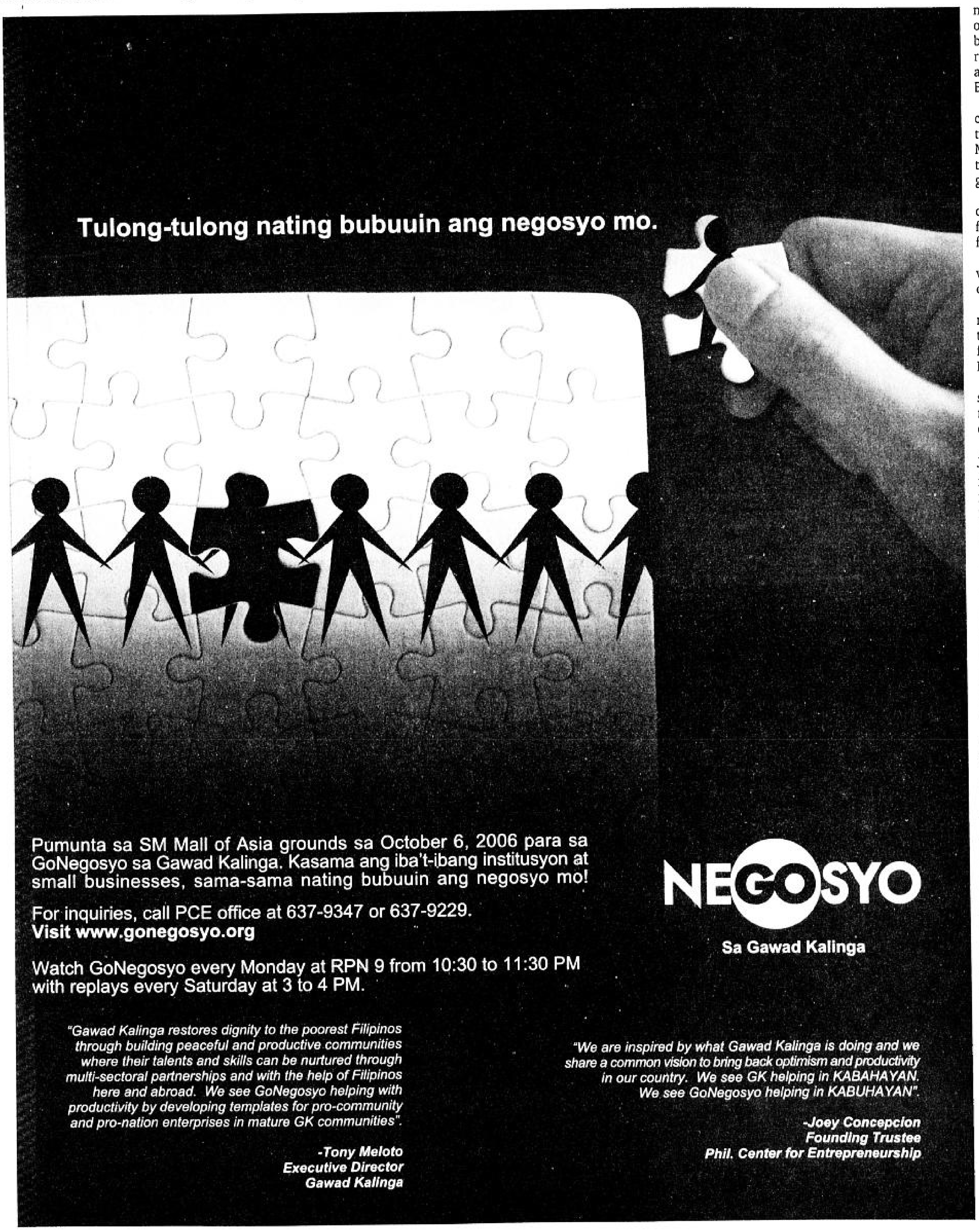

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Sa Gawad Kalinga

"Gawad Kalinga restores dignity to the poorest Filipinos through building peaceful and productive communities where their talents and skills can be nurtured through multi-sectoral partnerships and with the help of Filipinos here and abroad. We see GoNegosyo helping with productivity by developing templates for pro-community and pro-nation enterprises in mature GK communities".

-Tony Meloto
Executive Director
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-Joey Concepcion
Founding Trustee
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NEGOSYO
Sa Gawad Kalinga

9:15 a.m.
FORUM 1: Ang Kagalingan ng Pagnenegosyo: (The Value of Entrepreneurship)
Speakers: Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan*, Sec. Arthur Yap* (PMS), Frank Padilla (Gawad Kalinga), Atty. Felipe Gozon (GMA Network, Inc.), Henry Lim Bon Liong (Sterling Paper Group) Chit Juan (Figaro coffee), Luis Oquinena (Gawad Kalinga) and other (PCE) Trustees and Partners
Moderator: Cito Beltran
10: 40 a.m.
Entertainment

10:50 a.m.
FORUM 2: Masaganang Produksyon: Katapat ay Nutrisyon at Pangkabuhayan (GK Communities as Agri-Producers: The Agri-Franchising Model)
Speakers: Toto Barcelona (Harbest), Lyndon Tan* (Basic Necessities – Vegetable producer, exporter), Anthony Inocencio (AP Inocencio Farms – Chicken), Danilo Fausto (DVF Dairy Farms), Catherine Dizon- Posas (Dizon Farms), Arturo Sanvictores (United Rubber Planters and Processors Association),
Gerry Geronimo* (Ating Alamin), Jose S. Concepcion, Jr. (Chair, RFM-Swift), Justin Uy* (ProFoods), Dylan Wilk (Gawad Kalinga)
Moderator: Karen Davila
12:10 a.m.
Entertainment: Leo Martinez

12:35 p.m.
Lunch break

1:30 p.m.
FORUM 3: Talk it Over : Ating Pagusapan, Prosesong Pang-Asenso (Processing: Teaching communities how to earn and 'fish' for life)
Speakers: Lorna Pimentel, BFAR, (Fish Processing), Joy Contreras, BAI (Meat Processing), Susan Gonzalo, BPI (Fruits and Vegetables Processing), Francisco Buencamino,
Moderator: Cheryl Cosim* & Gerry Geronimo*
2:50 p.m.
Entertainment: Ony Carcamo: Ventriloquist

3:00 p.m.
FORUM 4: Iba't Ibang Negosyong Babagay Sa 'Yo: (Various Business Models: Internet, Franchising, Micro Enterprises and Micro Financing)
Speakers: Butch Jimenez (PLDT), Richie Cuna (President, AFFI), Doyee Tumpalan (First VitaPlus), Manny Guina (Rural Bankers Association of the Phil.), Les Reyes (Reyes HairCutters), Sandy Javier (Andoks), Lloyd Luna
Moderators: Cheryl Cosim*
4:20 p.m.
Entertainment

4:30 p.m.
FORUM 5: Sikat na, Negosyante pa! Grabe ang Kita! : (Celebrity Entrepreneurs)
Speakers: Arnel Ignacio, Gelli de Belen*, Richard Merk, Regine Tolentino, Albert Martinez*, Jolina Magdangal*
Moderators: Korina Sanchez

6:10 p.m.
Closing: Game Show (Ariel Ignacio)
Edru Abraham – Kontra Gapi

** For confirmation*

Europe hails RP for 'turning its back' on death penalty

THE EUROPEAN Union has hailed the Philippine government for "turning its back" on capital punishment and now counts on the latter to urge more countries to do the same, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday.

The message came days after Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo signed a United Nations covenant on the abolition of the death penalty.

Through the embassy of Finland, which currently holds the EU presidency, the 25-nation bloc congratulated the country for being "one of the very few Asian countries to have abolished the death penalty," the DFA said.

Finnish Ambassador Riita Resch, in her letter to Romulo, said the EU "looks forward to close cooperation with the Philippines... to encourage countries who have not yet done so."

Romulo signed on Sept. 20 the Second Optional Protocol to the Convention on Civil and Political Rights at the UN headquarters in New York.

With the signing, Romulo then said, the Philippines "binds itself before the world to uphold and protect the life of the individual. We turn our backs on capital punishment and take a bold, confident step forward, in the name of life."

Volt Contreras

Pope offers prayers for 'Milenyo' victims

SAYING HE WAS IN "deep sadness," Pope Benedict XVI has offered prayers for Filipinos in the wake of the devastation brought by Typhoon "Milenyo."

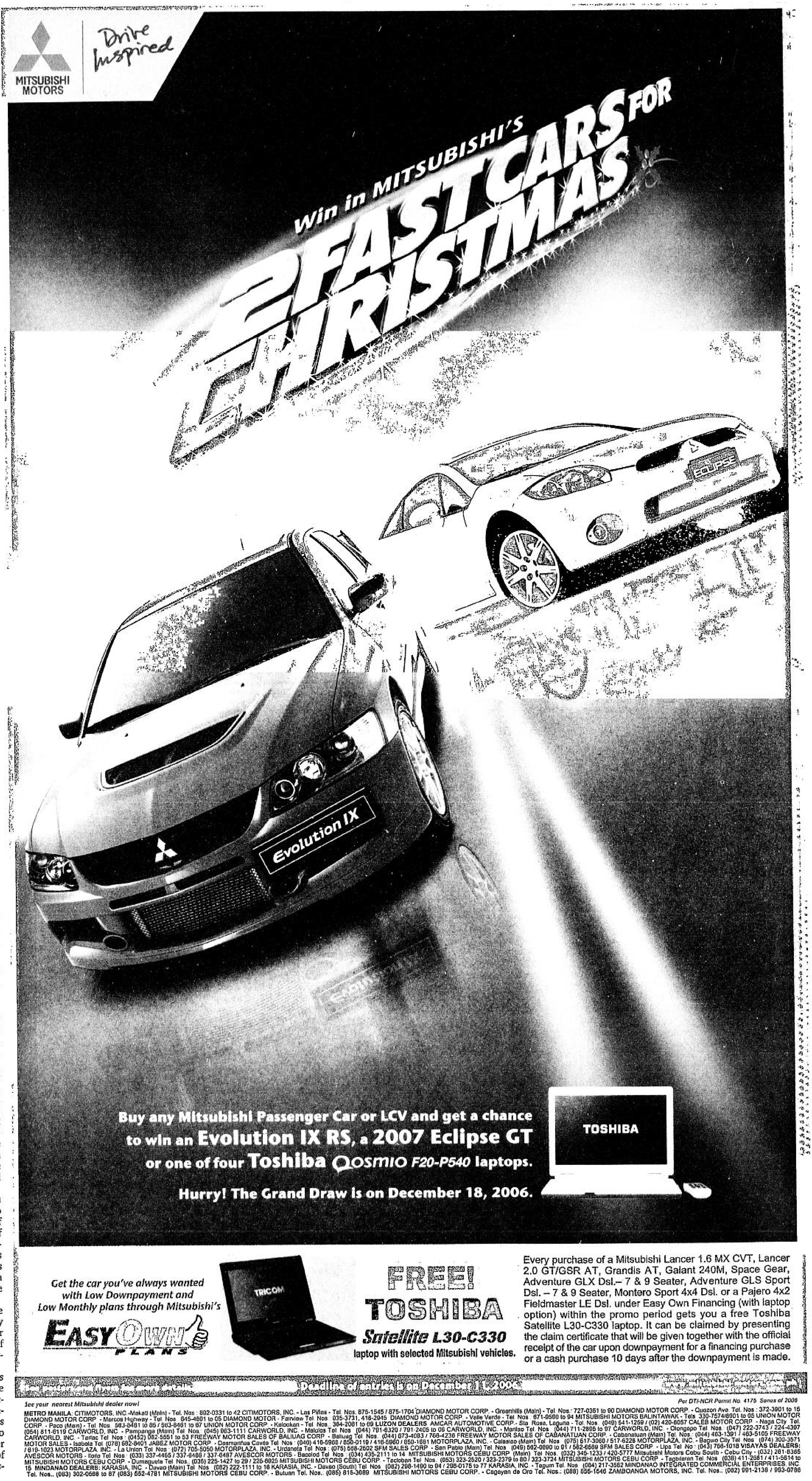
In a message sent to Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, the Pontiff said he was praying that the "relief effort will be swift and generous in its response and that normality may soon be restored."

"Having learned with deep sadness of the serious damage inflicted by Typhoon Milenyo in the Philippines, the Holy Father offers fervent prayers for the dead, for those who are still missing and for all those who have lost their homes," according to the message sent through Vatican Secretary of State Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone.

"Entrusting you and your people to the protection of Mary, comforter of the afflicted, he cordially imparts his apostolic blessing as a pledge of strength and peace in the Lord."

The papal message came as the country continued to recover from the effects of the powerful typhoon.

Radio stations continued to receive complaints of electricity yet to be restored in their areas after Milenyo brought down power lines in and out of Metro Manila. *Christian V. Esguerra*



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GMA urged: Order retake now, not wait for CA

From page A1

issuance of the executive order on the retake would be deferred until the appellate court had ruled on the pending petition and the National Bureau of Investigation had submitted its report on the leak of test questions that marred the June exam.

By way of explaining the deferment, Ermita said the President was "not insensitive" to the public reaction to her decision ordering a retake.

But Sen. Richard Gordon yesterday said "poor legal advice" from her officials was causing Ms Arroyo's flip-flop on the controversy.

"It's cha-cha, *atras-abante* (on again, off again). It doesn't give the administration high ratings in terms of judgment," the senator said of Malacañang's position on the matter, which has been changing almost by the day.

Gordon, who had sought the Senate investigation on the leak, reiterated his call for the resignation of Professional Regulation Commission Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero.

"I don't see why the President can't fire Rosero. But if I were Rosero, I would resign because she has already done so much damage," he said.

Gordon also said Rosero compounded the problem when she preempted the NBI inquiry into the leak by authorizing the oathtaking of the exam passers and announced that there would be no retake.

No flip-flopping

Michael Defensor, Ms Arroyo's chief of staff, said there was no flip-flop in Malacañang's position.

He said the pending appellate court's decision only gave the Palace "a chance to direct the NBI to give a more thorough and detailed report."

"If people see this as flip-flopping, then it's flip-flopping for the good of all those concerned," Defensor said in a phone interview.

He said the input of the NBI and other agencies would assist the Palace in coming up with a decision "fair to everyone."

In an initial report to Malacañang, the NBI said it had identified two review centers that discussed with and leaked test questions to examinees.

Three other review centers are being investigated for the same offense, according to the NBI, which is now "reconstructing" the list of those who had registered with these review centers and matching it with the PRC list of exam passers.

'Complex' case

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye promised that the final decision on the controversy would be fair and just for all concerned.

"We assure all stakeholders that justice will be served and the honor of the nursing profession upheld," he said in a statement.

He also said the President would "not falter in her resolve to settle this issue once and for all and to redeem the integrity and good reputation of the nursing licensure system."

Bunye said the "complexity" of the case had prompted the Palace to make a thorough review of the draft executive order and "to take into consideration the prevailing circumstances to ensure that those who are guilty will bear the brunt of retribution while those who are innocent will be treated fairly."

He said "concerned government agencies" were now "firming up their recommendations."

Political perspective

According to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, nobody should be surprised at Malacañang's stance.

"This issue is being considered from a political point of view, and not from a thorough study of the issues," said Biazon, chair of the Senate civil service committee investigating the leak.

Gordon and Biazon said the prudent thing for Malacañang to do is to wait for the appellate court's ruling and abide by it.

"Otherwise, if the decision of the court runs counter to the decision of the executive, what would happen? We will have another situation like the Ombudsman against the Supreme Court," Biazon said, referring to the Ombudsman's recent decision clearing officials of the Commission on Elections of liability in the P1.3-billion poll automation deal that the high court had nullified.

Biazon also called on the appellate court to expedite its decision on the petition pending before it.

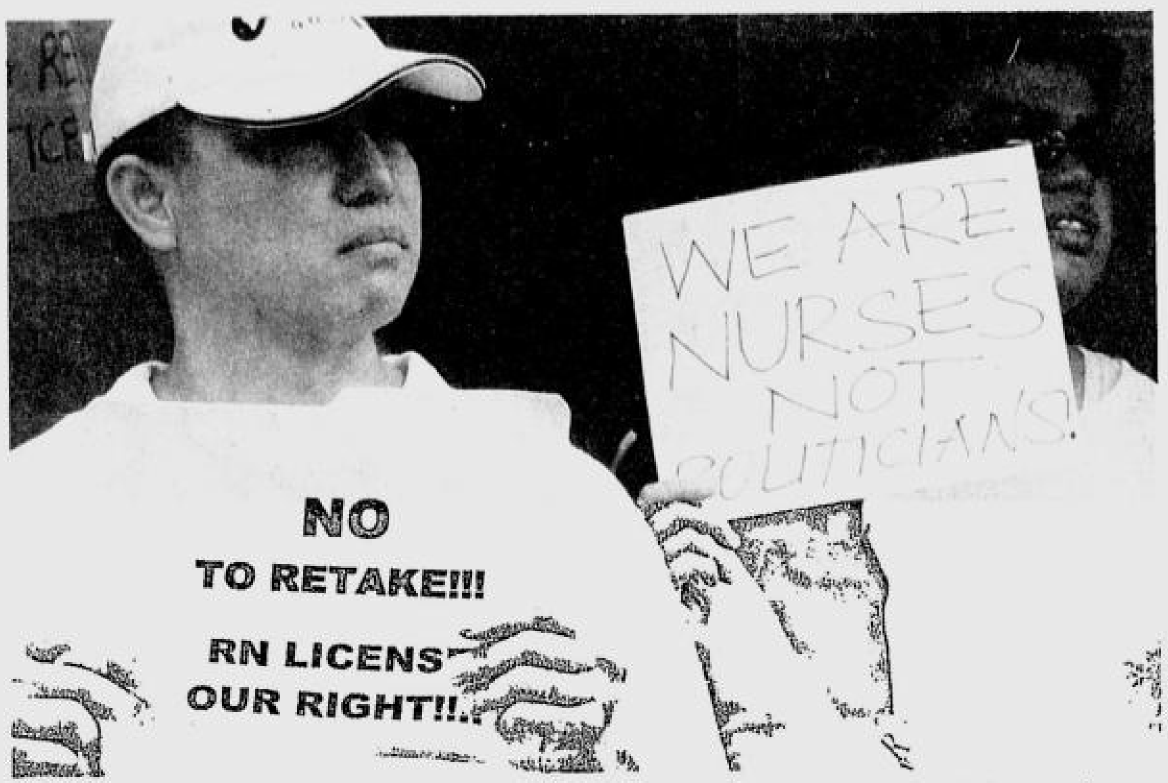
Chronic problem

At the House, Deputy Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said Malacañang's stance on the tainted board exam was doing more harm than good to the examinees.

"The chronic flip-flopping is reflective of the decision-making process of those in power," the Cavite lawmaker said in a phone interview.

Remulla, who had earlier pushed for a retake of tainted Tests III and V, said Malacañang was ignoring the plight of those who had passed the board exam but were prevented by the court from being sworn in as nurses.

"*Hindi na naawa ang* Malacañang. The triple flip-flop has exacerbated the tension and aggravation of the examinees who only want a final resolution to their problem," he said. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*


WE ARE NURSES NOT POLITICIANS!
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THEIR FUTURE IS ON HOLD. Nursing board passers express their protest against the Palace retake stance in front of the Philippine Regulation Commission.

REM ZAMORA

CHEd eyes abolition of review centers

By Alcuin Papa

THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER Education (CHEd) is thinking of abolishing review centers in light of the purported involvement of a number of them in the leak of test questions for the June nursing board examination.

CHEd Chair Carlito Puno said that as a result of the controversy, review centers appeared to be "destroying the integrity of Philippine licensure examinations" both here and abroad.

He said the abolition of review centers was one of the CHEd's options to help restore respect for Philippine higher education.

Last option

But it will be "the last option," he said, adding that the CHEd would wait for the final report of the National Bureau of Investigation on the purported involvement of certain review centers in the cheating.

There are 150 review centers nationwide that offer review classes for the nursing board exam, according to CHEd Deputy Executive Director Julito Viriolo. The majority of these are in Metro Manila.

For other courses, there are as many as 1,000 such centers all over the country.

The nursing review centers alone earn P2 billion annually, Puno said.

Ex-NPA leader bats for amnesty

By Norman Bordadora

A LEADER OF AN ANTICOMMUNIST group yesterday urged the government to offer amnesty to rebels instead of just pursuing a military solution to the decades-old insurgency problem.

Pastor Alcover Jr., himself a former communist leader and now head of the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy, said: "Under this principled peace approach, the rebels only have two choices: Surrender or die."

Alcover said that under the strategy, New People's Army rebels should adhere to the government's conditions of surrender by laying down their arms and respecting the duly constituted authority.

He said the communist insurgents should be prepared for the consequences of the cycle of violence they started when they raised arms against the government, and should stop recklessly blaming the police or the military for the rash of killings in their ranks.

Alcover said this "surrender-or-die" approach remained the only viable solution if the government wanted to put an end to the insurgency that has worsened rural poverty and impeded economic growth in the countryside.

"The government had initially misdiagnosed the problem when it thought it could suppress the communist insurgency by initiating peace talks with the rebels," Alcover said.

Alcover said that Executive Order No. 546, which gives the Philippine National Police and local chief executives a more active role in the campaign against the insurgency, showed that the Arroyo administration was exhibiting a strong political will to resolve the security concern.

Seoul life tough but good for soul

From page A1

vert to Catholicism.

But more than the rituals, Rabi believes it is the witnessing of their faith by their fellow believers that will keep the three in the fold.

Lydia Rabi, the community's president, says "adult baptism" is high in South Korea both as a natural course and a matter of necessity for the Filipino workers.

Sense of belonging

"When you go to work in a foreign land, the first thing that you usually look for is a church and a religious community," says the 50-year-old domestic helper in a diplomat's household. "Naturally, you feel alienated and you long for friendship and a sense of belonging."

Since she first set foot here in 1991, Rabi has witnessed how compatriots gravitated to Hyehwadong and how the district evolved into what is now regarded as the Pinoy's humble patch in bustling, and at times impersonal, Korea.

Typical Pinoy market

On Sunday afternoons, the street outside St. Benedict's Church is transformed into a typical "palengke."

It's replete with just about any Pinoy item you can find back home—Ligo sardines, Lucky Me instant pancit canton, "turon" and "palamig," local brands of fish and soy sauce, fake shoes and electronics and the omnipresent "carinderia."

There's even an "ukay-ukay" store across the street, a Filipino phenomenon that occasionally attracts curious Koreans.

The street is usually filled after the regular 1:30 p.m. Mass concelebrated by Fr. Glenn Jaron and Fr. Gorgonio Llubit, chaplains of the Filipino community in Hyehwadong.

There are just too many stories for the mostly factory workers engaged in 12-hour shifts the past week. Unlucky ones work 16 to 18 hours straight under the tight watch of a "militaristic" Korean employer, according to Rabi.

Here, Filipinos usually dread the word "yagon," for it means working the night shift, from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. The "chugan" or day shift is naturally more appealing but not exactly easier, according to Rabi.

16 working hours, insults

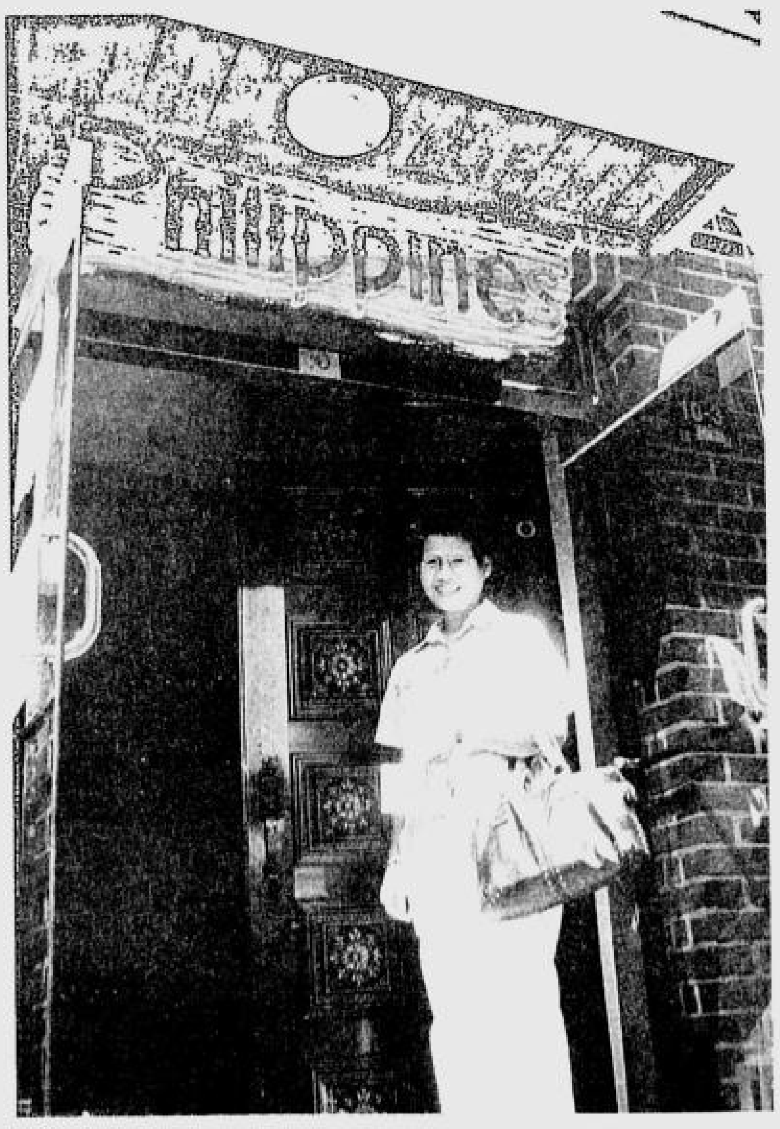
Besides, factory workers are hired under the employment permit system which requires only nine working hours, she says.

"Of course, many of our countrymen are usually helpless when their Korean employers don't follow the stipulations of their contract," she laments.

Mark, a factory worker in his 20s, for instance, works for 16 hours on a 700,000 won (roughly P35,000) monthly salary. His employer arbitrarily brought down his salary from the original 1,000,000 won (around P50,000) as soon as the Filipino arrived at the factory.

"My boss would even hit me in the head at the slightest mistake. Not to mention the barrage of insults that would come after. If it's any consolation, he utters them in Korean so they don't hurt that much," he complains.

Some stories are embarrassing because they are a Filipino's own doing.



FILIPINO CATHOLIC COMMUNITY president Lydia Rabi says that, ironically, OFWs have been rediscovering their faith in a country with very few Catholic believers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One factory worker failed to send money to his wife back home for two months. Earning nearly P50,000 monthly, he had apparently splurged his pay on night clubs where an evening could cost between 60,000 and 100,000 won (roughly P3,000 to P5,000).

"His wife was left crying," says a fellow factory worker. "I don't know what happened after."

No formula for success

For factory workers Aldwin and Rogelio, there's really no formula for success for any Filipino in Korea.

On the surface, salaries look attractive since they're far higher than in the Philippines. But considering the high cost of living in Korea, they say the comparison is not exactly right.

A cup of rice in a small Korean eatery, for example, costs 1,000 won or about P50.

"Here, you really have to impose a great deal of self-discipline so you can save," says Aldwin who belongs to a Christian denomination. "And more importantly, one should never forget to call on the Lord."

Like their Catholic compatriots, the two friends are active in religious services despite their long hours at the factory.

Members of the Hyehwadong Filipino Catholic Community keep themselves busy with activities, both religious and social. In the process, Rabi says the community attracts more volunteers and helps steer Filipino workers in the right direction.

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Recto, Arroyo to vote against antiterror bill

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IT LOOKS LIKE ADMINISTRATION SENATORS are leading the opposition to Malacañang's pet legislation—the antiterror bill.

Sen. Ralph Recto and Sen. Joker Arroyo have signified their intention to vote against Senate Bill No. 2137, which is currently being hotly debated on the floor.

The bill defines and imposes penalties for the crime of terrorism, as well as "conspiracy to commit" and "proposal to commit" terrorism.

The Senate version of the bill on the floor sponsored by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile allows for the detention of a terror suspect for 15 days without charges.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Sen. Franklin Drilon said they would only vote for the bill, the proposed Antiterrorism Act of 2006, if enough safeguards against its possible abuse were incorporated into it.

"I think we should debate it, but I'm going to vote against it," said Recto yesterday, adding he was certain that there were "many" other senators who would thumb it down.

Recto said he was against the bill for two reasons: There are existing laws against terrorist acts and the Arroyo administration cannot be trusted to ensure the law will not be abused by the authorities.

"I don't mind doing it (backing the bill) for another administration. Apparently not this one," said Recto, a member of the Wednesday Group that includes Senate President Manuel Villar, Arroyo and Pangilinan. The group meets once a week in an informal setting.

Recto said the Arroyo administration "potentially" could abuse the antiterror law.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Ethics probe of Enrile sought

By TJ Burgonio

FORMER SEN. RENE SAGUISAG HAS asked the Senate to investigate Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile for violation of ethical standards during the Senate's high-profile inquiry into government-sequestered corporations.

Saguisag, legal counsel for some executives of the sequestered Philcomsat Holdings Corp.(PHC), accused Enrile of practically lawyering for his family's business interests instead of inhibiting himself, as the senator himself promised to do at the start of the Sept. 14 inquiry of the Senate committee on government corporations into the alleged losses of Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC), Philcomsat and the Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC).

Before the hearings were suspended by the Supreme Court, Enrile—whose family has a 6 percent stake in the POTC—questioned the legality of a law creating the Presidential Commission on Good Government and presented documents to show that PCGG nominees "had made a milking cow of them." The POTC, a firm formerly controlled by close associates of former strongman Ferdinand Marcos, is now 35 percent owned by the government.

"We want him probed for [inhibiting] himself and then very actively participating instead of staying away, in a manner clearly compatible with and promotive of his family's interests," Saguisag said in the complaint he lodged yesterday with the Office of Senate President Manuel Villar Jr.

The former senator asked the Senate to issue a ruling on the conduct of Enrile, who was "arguably lawyering for his family for pecuniary gain."

This, he said, was a violation of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards (Sec. 14, Art. 6 of the Constitution) "which interdicts any member of the Senate from lawyering for anyone."

Enrile, however, scoffed at the complaint, saying "I have not done anything improper. But I'm willing to face an ethics hearing."

"I'm not lawyering for any side. I started participating in the discussion of the issue because the person who was being asked questions mentioned my name. He was using a bill that I filed as an argument," Enrile said in a press conference yesterday.

Bad blood surfaces after long night of filibustering

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

BAD BLOOD BETWEEN SOME SENATORS led to a very long night on Wednesday and the failure to hold a session yesterday.

On Wednesday, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Jamby Madrigal delivered speeches for one hour and two hours, respectively, to effectively delay the close of floor debates on the antiterror bill as moved by their nemesis, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. *(See related story)*

The filibusters—long-winded speeches that could deal with anything under the sun—stretched Wednesday's session to nearly 11 p.m. and taxed the administration senators' patience.

The following day, Thursday, the little-known animosity between Sen. Franklin Drilon and Sen. Joker Arroyo surfaced when the former questioned the lack of a quorum to hold a session.

Since there were not enough senators present, Villar was forced to adjourn the session. On the day's agenda were several franchise bills Arroyo was supposed to sponsor in the presence of some members of the House who had sponsored the measures in their own chamber.

By the rule

"They want to adhere to our rules, so let's follow the rules and part of the rules is the quorum," an amused Drilon said.

This after Arroyo last Monday had blocked Sen. Panfilo Lacson's motion to suspend some Senate rules to allow Drilon's finance committee to hold budget hearings simultaneously with the sessions.

Arroyo is a key member of the Wednesday Group that helped deliver the votes that gave the Senate presidency to Sen. Manuel Villar in place of Drilon.

On Tuesday, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago pointed out that Enrile and Pimentel had not seen eye-to-eye since martial law days. As defense minister, Enrile had Pimentel and others opposed to the dictator Ferdinand Marcos jailed.

Pimentel had also indirectly implicated Enrile in a *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and -shaving) scheme in 1995 after Pimentel lost while Enrile managed to win a Senate seat. At the start of the current 13th Congress, Enrile bolted the minority saying he did not recognize Pimentel's authority.

The two were at it again on Tuesday after Enrile moved to end the interpellation for the antiterror bill, saying the opposition was just employing delaying tactics. To defuse the tension, Villar adjourned that session.

On Wednesday, Enrile revived his motion to end the debates. Despite Pimentel's objection, the motion was carried with a vote of 10-6.

Pimentel was outvoted but not outsmarted. He then addressed the senators for one hour, followed by Madrigal who spoke for two hours.

Madrigal's speech included the records of the terror deliberations in the United States and the United Kingdom and even touched on the Inquisition and the French Revolution.

Only the alert Sen. Richard Gordon saved the night. When Madrigal sat down to allow Pimentel to take the floor again, Gordon said she had effectively yielded the floor.

This paved the way for the vote on Enrile's motion.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said what happened on Wednesday emphasized the need to follow the rules on debate and to set a time limit on deliberations.

"The sense is that we are dragging our feet on the legislation. We had set a list of priorities at the start of this Congress. We are four months away from adjournment and yet most of these bills have not been passed," he said.

But Villar said the senators would continue to be flexible with regard to their deliberations, and that filibusters could not be avoided.

"I think the desire of our colleagues is to have a give-and-take and that will be our guide," he said.

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Wife of top Indon terror suspect captured in Jolo

From page A1

one name, was captured early Wednesday in mountainous Patikul town in Jolo, where a US-backed offensive has been hunting him and other al-Qaida-linked militants since Aug. 1, three intelligence officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The United States has offered a $10-million reward for Dulmatin, an alleged bomb expert in the regional militant group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Authorities have not directly implicated the wife, identified as Istiada Oemar Sovie, in any terror attacks, but were holding her for possible immigration violations. She was being interrogated, the officials told The Associated Press.

Terror training camps

Officials have said he and another Indonesian terror suspect, Umar Patek, fled to the southern Philippines where they teamed up with the Abu Sayyaf and other Muslim rebel groups to set up terror training camps and plot attacks.

Philippine Army troops and Marines also took into custody the couple's two children, aged 6 and 8, according to a military intelligence report.

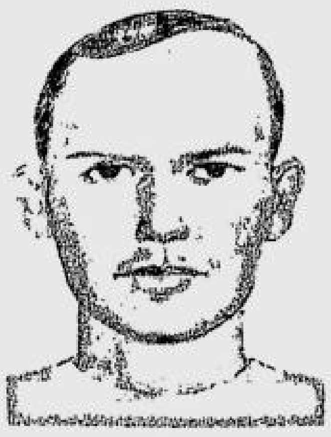
It said that the troops raided a house where they found the wife and children, and that the wife told authorities she had four other children who were not with her.

Indonesian fugitives

The arrest of Dulmatin's wife bolstered military reports that the two Indonesian fugitives were still hiding in Jolo with local guerrillas, who had also been linked to Osama bin Laden's network and to a series of deadly bombings, high-profile ransom kidnappings and beheadings, the intelligence officials said.

They said she could be a source of valuable intelligence information.

The Indonesians had been reportedly sighted in recent months with Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, who is also on Washington's most wanted terror list, military officials have said.



SKETCH of Dulmatin, alias Amar Usman, who has a $10-million bounty on his head. AFP

Such collaboration among militant groups has worried security officials because it has increased their strength and bomb-making know-how, and expanded their reach.

Militants from the Rajah Solaiman Movement, a Manila-based group of Christian converts to Islam, were providing help with their familiarity of the capital and outlying urban regions, officials said.

One collective plot, which authorities believed involved Dulmatin and Patek, the Abu Sayyaf and the Rajah Solaiman group, was the February 2004 bombing that gutted a ferry near Manila, killing 116 people in Southeast Asia's second-worst terrorist strike, after the 2002 Bali bombings.

Washington has deployed troops to Mindanao since 2002 to arm and provide training to Filipino troops battling the militants. American troops also have provided high-tech assistance to track down Indonesian and Filipino militants on Jolo.

RECOVERED ABU SAYYAF bombs in Patikul, Jolo, were detonated by American and Filipino explosive and ordnance personnel on Sept. 14. PDI PHOTO

AFP refuses to blame RSBS' former execs for funds' loss

From page A1

ing: "We'll answer in the proper [forum]. It's a good thing you asked me that. I'll prepare for that."

Tolentino was part of the committee assigned by the Department of National Defense to study the RSBS.

Based on the committee's recommendation, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. had announced that the RSBS would be deactivated on Dec. 31.

Cruz said the move was aimed at preventing further bleeding and preserving the assets so the soldiers would get their contributions back, with 6-percent annual interest, upon their retirement.

'I don't know'

Tolentino appeared reluctant to release information on the investments and losses that the RSBS had suffered through the years.

Asked when the "problems" began, he merely replied: "Before 1997. I don't know what happened. Ask the RSBS."

In 1998, the Senate blue ribbon committee found a number of anomalous loans and bad investments had been made in idle real estate and little-known real estate firms.

Because of the bad real estate investments, the RSBS incurred huge losses during the 1997 property crisis in the Asean region.

Tolentino would not say how much in losses were incurred.

In 2003, the Feliciano Commission recommended the liquidation of the RSBS assets and the creation of a new pension fund that would comply with strict investment disciplines.

TOLENTINO

Meanwhile, former RSBS officials led by Lisandro Abadia, a former AFP chief of staff, and Jose Ramiscal, a former RSBS president, are facing graft charges before the Sandiganbayan.

Tolentino said the soldiers would be assured that they would get their contributions and their pensions—which would be paid by the national government and not by the RSBS.

"Don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to defend the RSBS. I'm glad we're getting our money away from them," he said.

Military brass

Members of the military brass sit on the RSBS Board of Trustees, the highest decision-making body of the pension fund.

As JI, Tolentino is an ex-officio member of the board, along with Esperon (chair), Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga and Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes.

The other board members are one representative each for retired officers and retired enlisted personnel, the AFP Sergeant Major, RSBS president Cesar Jaime Jr. (vice chair), and RSBS executive vice president Honorio Ascueta.

On Oct. 2, Esperon announced that Jaime and Ascueta had resigned their posts. Retired Maj. Gen. Jose Nano replaced Ascueta.

Restiveness

On Oct. 4, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon warned that the RSBS controversy could stir up restiveness among the troops.

But Tolentino said: "No, our soldiers have only two concerns—their pension and their contribution. They will get them.

"Maybe they just need a little explaining [to]."

Defense Undersecretary Cecilio Lorenzo said that of RSBS' P11.6-billion in assets, close to P10 billion were in idle real estate or real estate stocks, and the rest in stocks and cash.

Cruz said proceeds from the sale of these assets and the soldiers' continuing 5-percent basic pay contributions would be deposited in a trust fund in two government banks.

He said a new pension plan for new officers and soldiers entering the service next year would be put up.

The new pension fund will be run by professional managers, unlike the RSBS which was run by retired military officers.

High salaries

Tolentino admitted that the RSBS allotted P90 million annually in salaries and allowances for its 200 employees.

He refused to say how much its top executives were getting. But if the average salary were computed, each employee gets P37,500 a month.

"Remember, the RSBS was not declared [a] public [fund] until 2003. So we can't compare their salaries with our salaries. You can't get the best minds if you lower their salaries," Tolentino said in defense.

Asked if the executives deserved the high salaries in light of the sorry results, he shrugged and said: "That's one of the reasons why the fund was taken away from them."

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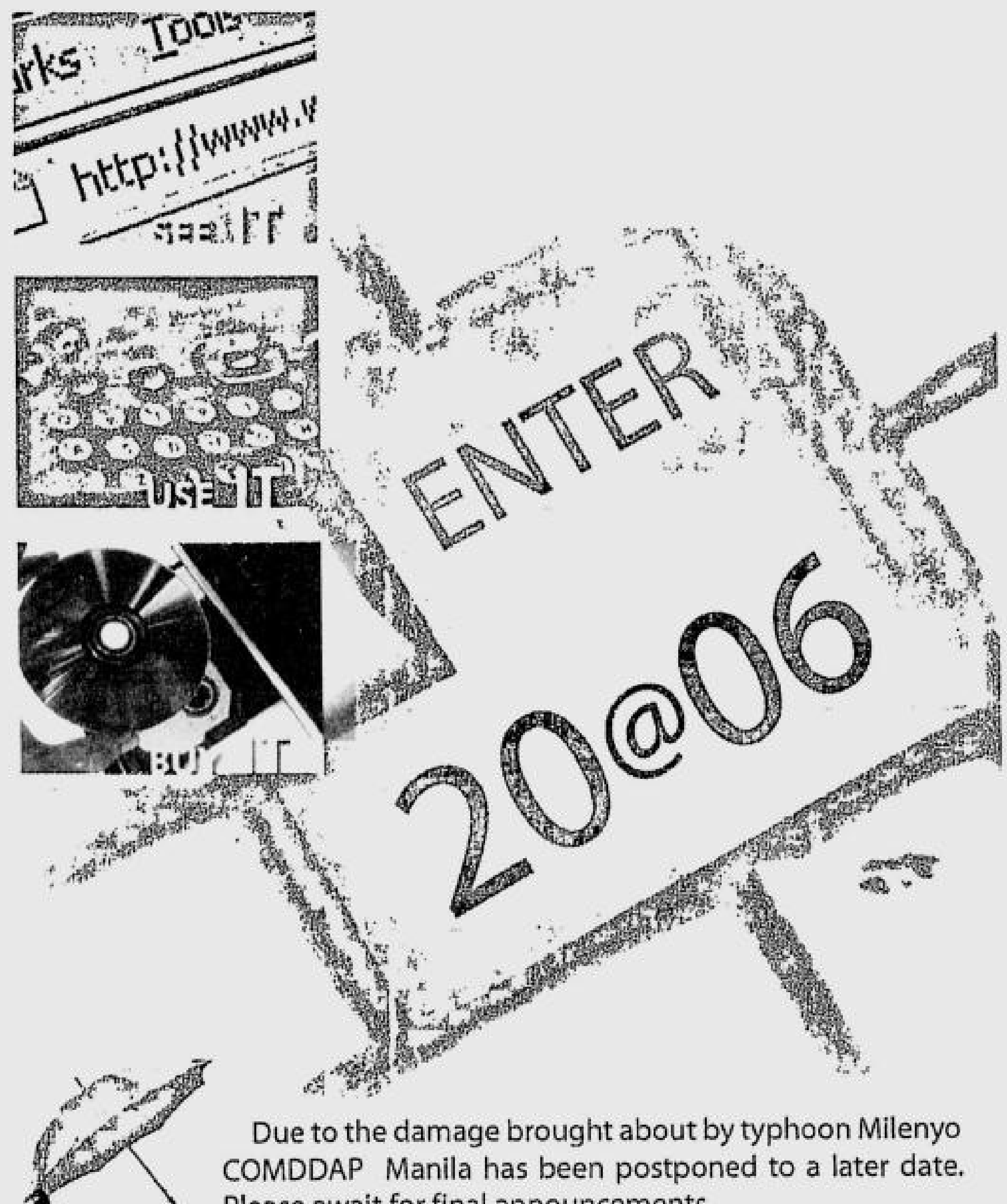

Due to the damage brought about by typhoon Milenyo COMDDAP Manila has been postponed to a later date. Please await for final announcements.
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Initiative not by the people, OneVoice shows evidence

By Jerome Aning

A CLERK HIRED AS A CASUAL EMPLOYEE certifying signatures for the people's initiative petition in Romblon. Bataan mayors themselves submitting collated signatures. An election registrar's note saying many signatures from one town were fabricated. Another one disclosing that signatures in three districts were not verified. Sheets of signatures counted twice in order to comply with the required number of petitioners.

The citizens' group OneVoice yesterday presented these as its evidence that the gathering of signatures for the people's initiative to amend the Constitution undertaken by the Sigaw ng Bayan and Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines was attended with irregularities.

OneVoice and other groups opposed to the people's initiative campaign have been rummaging through the documents submitted by Sigaw and Ulap at Comelec, following the Supreme Court's challenge that they produce sufficient evidence of fraud.

'Not by the people'

Carlos Medina, OneVoice legal counsel, said one proof that the initiative was not "by the people" was the certification by an election registrar that it was the mayors who submitted signatures from the towns of Samal, Bagac, Orion, and Pilar in Bataan and themselves requested verification.

Another OneVoice counsel, Marlon Manuel, said other discrepancies on the signature verification also showed up when the group checked the certification of signature verifications signed by local election registrars and submitted by the initiative proponents to the Comelec's law department.

"Based on our initial findings, we have no doubt that what we have here is a spurious initiative governed by a nonexistent process for all the wrong reasons," he said.

But a pro-initiative lawyer, former Makati City Vice Mayor Robert Brillante, presented to the Comelec several persons whom he said were ready to testify that Mayor Jejomar Binay sabotaged the initiative process by sending "paid volunteers" to sign the signature sheets distributed by Ulap and Sigaw.

He showed a signature sheet where a trusted aide of Binay's, together with his entire clan, signed the initiative petition. The signatures were later screened at the local Comelec office and judged spurious.

'Fabricated'

Medina and Manuel showed reporters a certification from Rudy Malaki, election officer of Jose Abad Santos in Davao del Sur, who said that "most signatures are fabricated" in his report of the verification of 2,627 signatures from 21 barangays.

Medina also produced a certification from a Rowena Castro, a casual clerk at the Office of the Election Registrar in Sta. Fe, Romblon, who said she certified and verified the signatures of the registered voters in behalf of the registrar, Lilia Cawaling, who was on sick leave.

"This is in violation of the law that the signature has to be verified by the election officer and not anybody else," the lawyer said.

He also showed a verification report submitted by the election officer of Jaro, Leyte for Barangay Buenavista, where about 50 signatures were verified. The same sheet was photocopied and the signatures were counted twice, the lawyer claimed.

'Mission accomplished'

Aquilino Pimentel III, counsel of the Senate minority group opposed to the initiative, said his "best proof" of irregularity was a certification dated Aug. 23 issued by lawyer Marlon Casquejo, city election officer of Davao City's first district. He quoted Casquejo as saying that he had not verified the signatures of registered voters in his own district as well as in the second and third, where he was acting election officer.

"Chief Justice Panganiban said we have to show our best document that the three-percent per legislative district requirement was not met," he said. "This is my proof; I think my mission is accomplished."

No power, no classes

CLASSES IN 10 SCHOOLS IN Metro Manila are still suspended today because electricity has yet to be restored in their campuses, the Department of Education (DepEd) said yesterday.

In a statement sent to media, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus identified the schools as Maharlika Elementary School, Taguig National High School, Western Bicutan High School in the Taguig-Pateros area; Dampalit Elementary School-Main and the Dampalit Elementary School-Unit 1 in Malabon-Navotas; the Villamor Airbase Elementary School, Marcela Marcelo Elementary School and Pasay City West High School in Pasay; and the Sampaloc Site 2 Elementary School and San Agustin Elementary School in Parañaque.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier ordered the DepEd to rush the repair of all schools damaged by Typhoon "Milenyo" last week.

Lapus has appealed to local government units and the private sector to finance the repairs.

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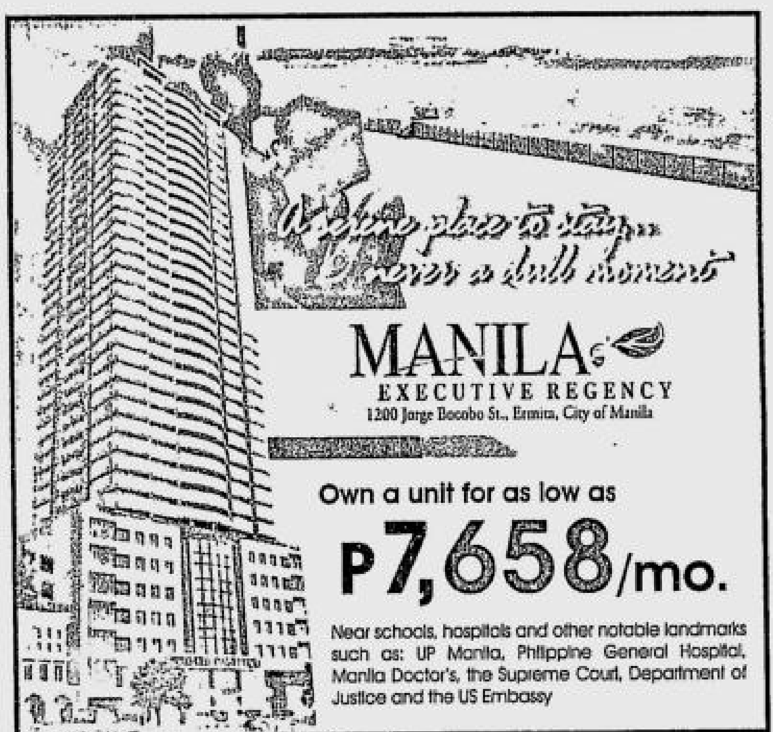

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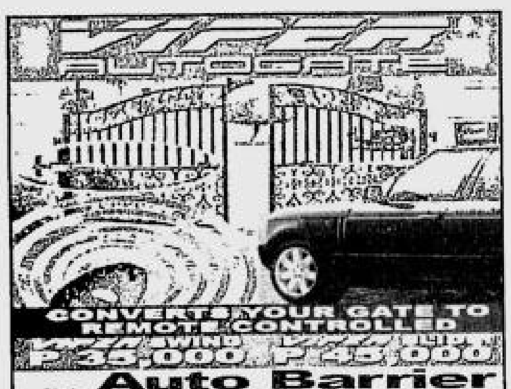

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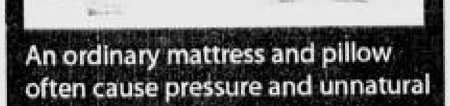

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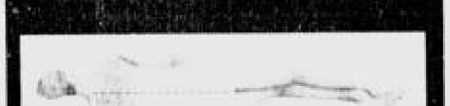

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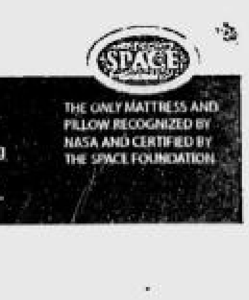

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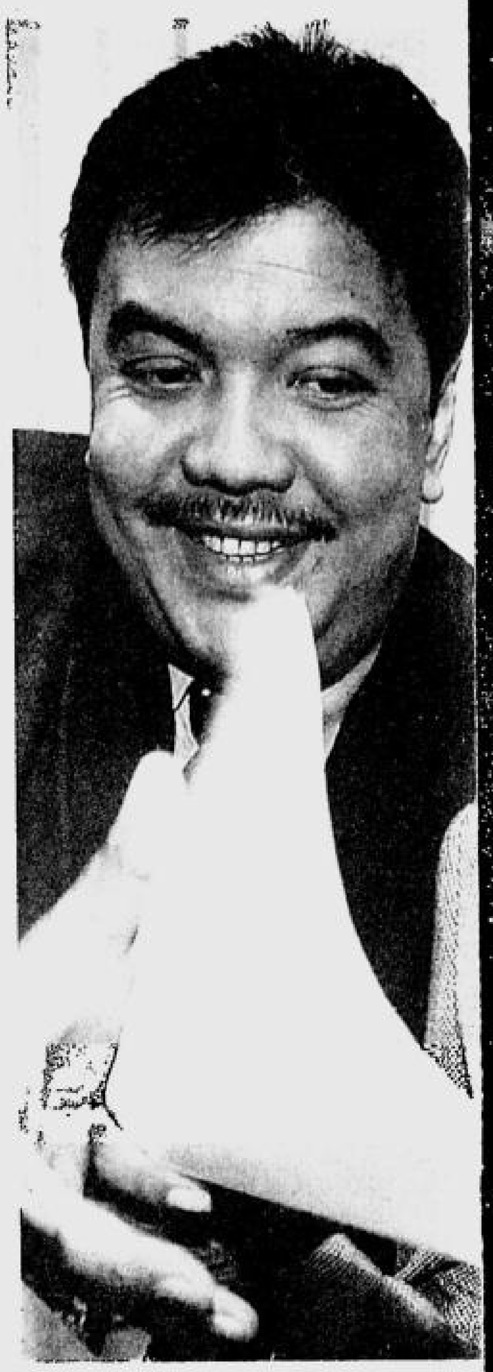
Complainants agitating SC, Mega Pacific lawyers

By Norman Bordadora



MEGA PACIFIC lawyers Alfredo Lazaro an conference answering critics of the recent Comelec and Mega Pacific officials.

A LAWYER FOR MEGA PACIFIC ESOlutions yesterday accused the complainants in the botched election automation deal of trying to turn the Supreme Court against the Ombudsman's Office after the latter cleared Comelec officials and Mega Pacific executives of any criminal liability in the voided P1.3-billion contract for the purchase of automated counting machines.

Lawyer Estrella Elamparo said complainants Augusto Lagman and Maricor Acol have been telling the media that the Ombudsman decision absolving the Commission on Elections officials ran counter to the January 2004 SC ruling nullifying the poll contract.

"In their not-so-subtle effort to agitate the members of the high tribunal and turn them against another constitutional body, they are now saying that there is an irreconcilable conflict between the Supreme Court ruling and the Ombudsman's findings," Elamparo told a news conference yesterday.

Elamparo explained that the only thing that the high court did in voiding the Mega Pacific contract was to find violations of civil law, not criminal liability on the part of Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos, the commissioners and procurement officers and Mega Pacific executives.

No crime committed

"[While] the Supreme Court ruled that the contract between the Comelec and Mega Pacific was defective, it nowhere stated that a crime was committed and that the Comelec and Mega Pacific officials were guilty," she said.

The lawyer quoted a portion of the SC ruling that said "the court did not make any premature conclusion on any wrongdoing but precisely directed the Ombudsman to make that determination after conducting the appropriate proceedings and after observing due process."

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, vice chair of the panel Ombudsman's panel that handed down the decision, defended the decision to clear all the respondents, including Abalos.

Villa-Ignacio said the investigating team that held a series of "clarificatory hearings" on the poll-automation deal never contradicted the Supreme Court ruling on the case.

He explained that the SC only dealt with the civil aspect of the case when it nullified the contract.

Beyond reasonable doubt

"The Ombudsman's concern was the criminal aspect and everybody knows that the quantum of evidence in a civil procedure is preponderance of evidence while in criminal case, it is guilt beyond reasonable doubt," Villa-Ignacio said.

He also explained why the panel reversed its earlier resolution recommending the impeachment of Commissioner Resureccion Borra and the filing of charges against any Comelec officials involved in the deal.

"We determined [that there was] no sufficient evidence to go to trial," he said.

Villa-Ignacio deplored the complainants' questioning the Ombudsman panel's decision when they never showed up at the clarificatory hearings.

He said the complainants, including the Kilosbayan led by former senator Jovito Salonga, snubbed all 12 public hearings conducted by the panel from July 13 to Aug. 23 in which it heard the testimony of resource persons and witnesses.

No show at hearing

"The panel gave them several opportunities to substantiate their complaint but they failed to do so," Villa-Ignacio said.

He said the complainants have 10 days to file a motion for reconsideration before the Ombudsman could go directly to the SC, h

But Villa-Ignacio doubte court would agree to hear su tion as the case deals with " of facts and not of law."

"The Supreme Court cann a preliminary investigat Supreme Court cannot ste what's provided in the Con he said.

He said only the Ombud conduct a preliminary investi to the criminal liability of the officials.

Villa-Ignacio also appealed of Ombudsman Merceditas G stop reading more into he during the release of the co decision.

He said Gutierrez had ma mitment to represent the cou international conference. W left, the resolution was alre he said.

Vendetta vs Comelec

Administration lawmakers dismissed calls for the resig

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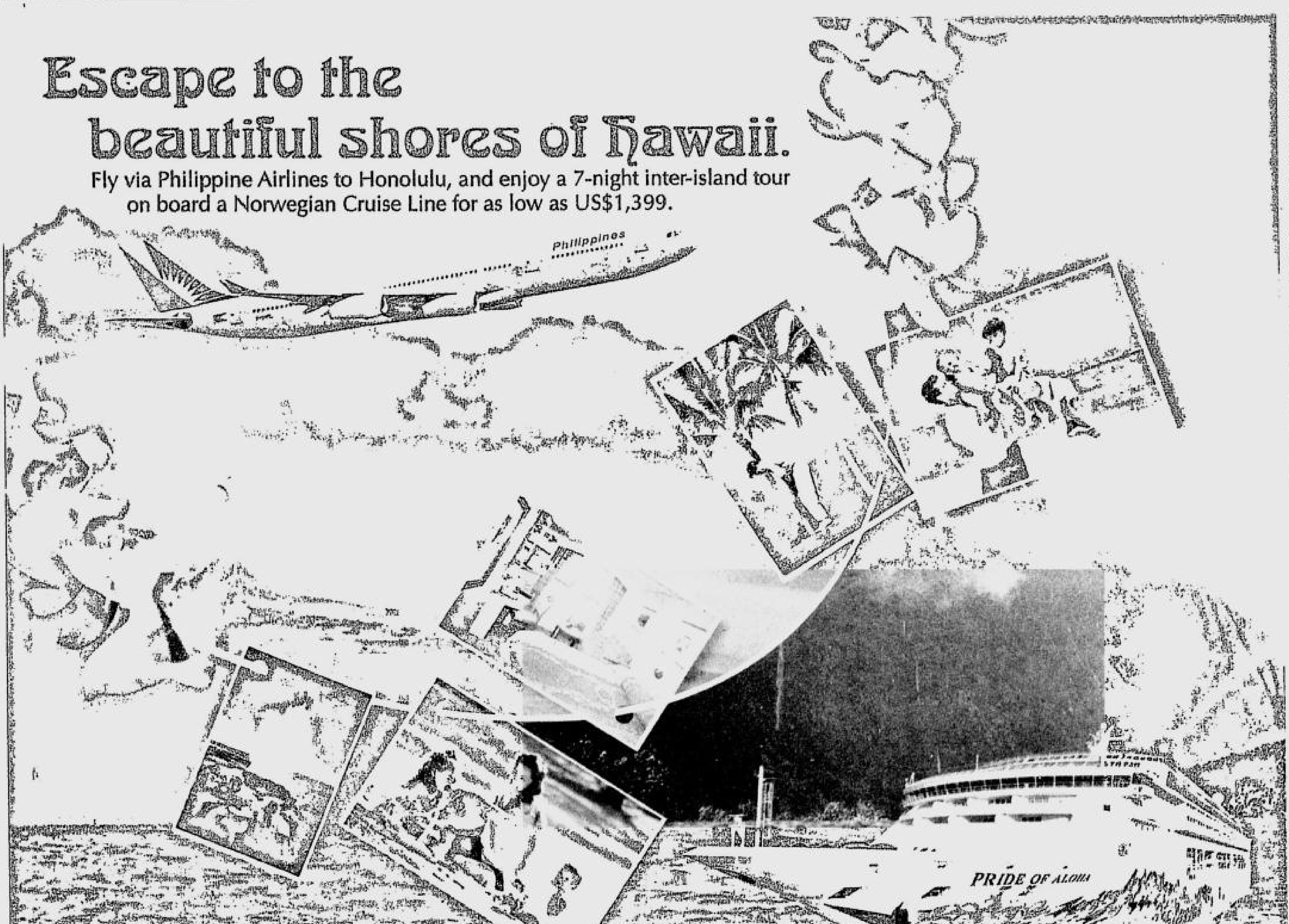

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65 Years Serving You with Pride

Palace: a vindic

By Michael Lim Ubac and Arr Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT DECI holding the President's cons authority over Armed Force appearing before Congress w dication" of Malacañang against Senate investigations. tration allies said yesterday.

Rep. Benasing Macarambon del Sur said the high court's dec "forthright reply to the arro some opposition senators who h tried to use the Armed Forces t the President in their inquiries.

He said the SC decision, wh the way for the court martial of Francisco Gudani and Lt. Col. Balutan for defying Executive "serves as a reminder to all m the AFP not to allow themse used in investigations fueled partisan politics."

"Members of the AFP can d high court's order, but they the military court where thei handlers cannot save the Macarambon.

Rep. Douglas Cagas of Dav said senators must henceforth of the SC decision when they try the military in future investigati

He cited in particular the the ruling that said, "Where officer is torn between ob President and obeying the S court will without hesitation a the officer has to choose the P

The Supreme Court last Wed nied with finality a petition fro

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complain

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Gutierrez, saying she should not be made "a sacrificial lamb" in the opposition's "vendetta" against the Comelec.

Representatives Edwin Uy (Lakas, Isabela) and Eduardo Veloso (NPC, Leyte), said critics should study the Ombudsman's decision in its entirety and study the evidence so they can be guided to be more responsible in their statements.

"We support the Ombudsman's decision which we believe was arrived at after a painstaking study and investigation on the case against Comelec and Mega Pacific officials," Veloso said.

Uy said those demanding Gutierrez's resignation wanted to get back at the Comelec for partisan political reasons, because of their defeat in the 2004 elections.

Veloso also denounced Gutierrez's detractors for dragging Malacañang into the controversy.

"That is unjust and baseless because the issue on the ACM contract is plainly judicial and Malacañang had nothing to do with it. To allege that the Ombudsman is being used for a cover-up is grossly unfair," he said. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

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Gudani

and Balutan for the high court to reconsider its Aug. 15 ruling upholding the President's authority as Commander in Chief over military officers appearing before congressional investigations.

In an earlier petition, Gudani and Balutan asked the SC to stop the Armed Forces from conducting pre-trial and court martial proceedings against them after they disobeyed orders from Malacañang for them not to appear in a Senate hearing.

The two showed up at a Senate hearing on the "Hello Garci" wiretap scandal to testify on alleged electoral fraud in Mindanao during the 2004 elections. The opposition claims that the tapes showed the President conspiring with an election commissioner to rig the vote.

In its Aug. 15 decision, the SC en banc ruled that the President has the constitutional authority to stop military officers from attending a congressional hearing by virtue of her power as Commander in Chief, and that as a consequence a military officer who defies such injunction was liable under military justice.

The SC said military officials could disobey an unlawful order from a superior, including the Commander in Chief, but they must be ready to prove the illegality of such an order before a military court.

A soldier who disobeys an illegal order still faces the risk of prosecution under military law, the SC said.

This risk provides the necessary counterweight against the indiscriminate invocation of the alleged illegality of the order as a defense, the SC said.

to respect the SC decision since it affirmed the President's control and supervision over the military.

Pinoy charged with Pinoy's slay in Marshalls

MAJURO—A FILIPINO CONSTRUCTION worker in the Marshall Islands has been charged with killing his roommate who objected to his late nights out.

Nestore Aguilar was charged on Wednesday with murdering Arnal Soliman, his compatriot and fellow contract worker.

Soliman died of stabbing wounds shortly after the assault on Saturday.

Several witnesses said that the two men had frequently argued over Aguilar's habit of returning late at night to the company accommodation they shared.

Witnesses told police that Soliman had thrown Aguilar's clothes out of their room on Saturday. A few minutes later they saw Aguilar chasing Soliman with a knife around the housing compound before stabbing him.

A preliminary hearing for the alleged murder, only the second in Majuro this year, will be held on Oct. 13. *AFP*

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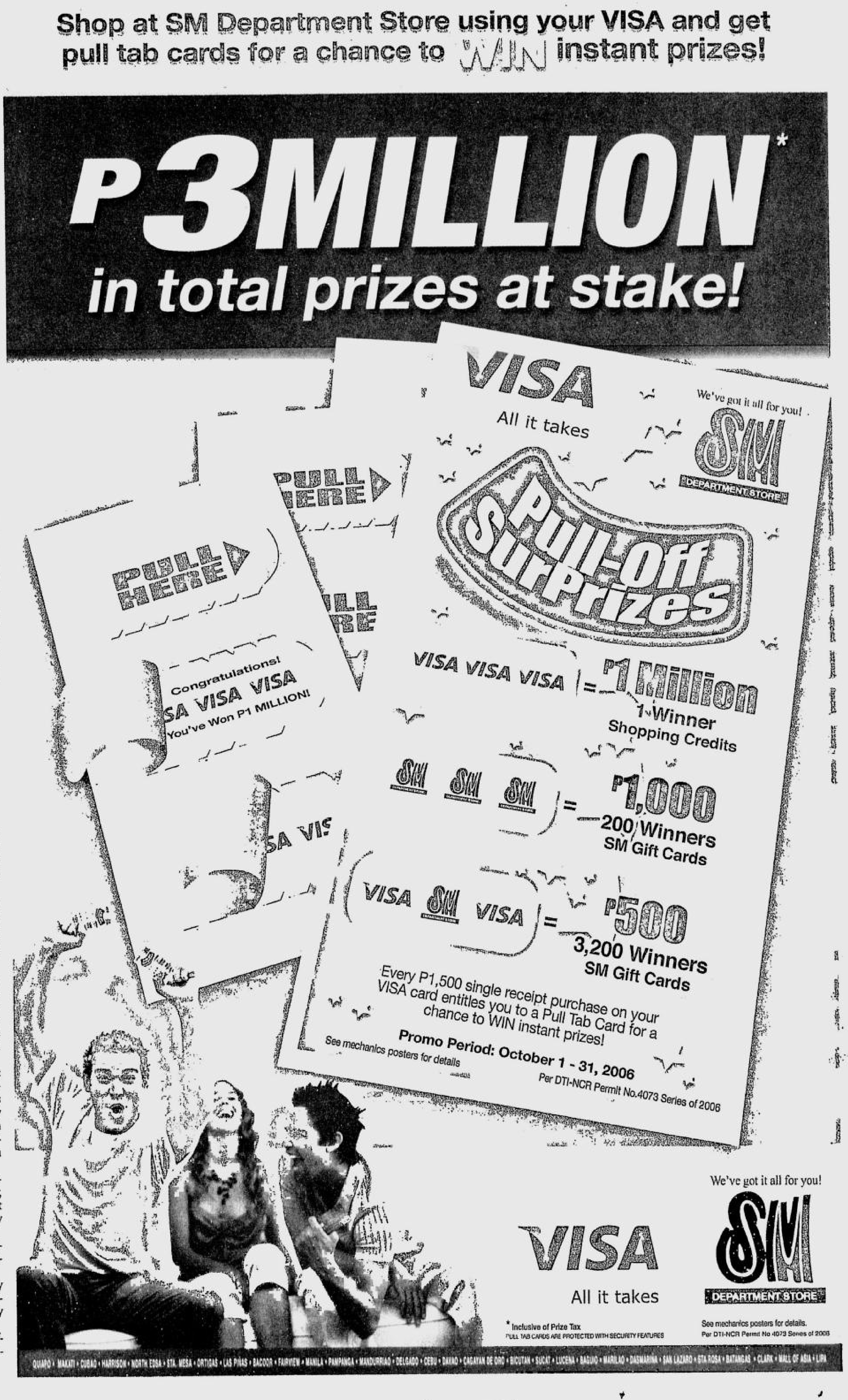
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OPINION

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Blind

EDITORIAL

THE OMBUDSMAN'S DECISION TO ABSOLVE everyone involved in the anomalous Mega Pacific contract is a terrible blow against the rule of law. It not only insults our intelligence, it not only offends basic decency, it mocks the very justice it seeks to serve.

The decision of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez—and it is all hers, despite the transparent attempt to let her deputies own it, while she is conveniently out of the country—brings us to a new low in cynicism; it asks us to believe, against all evidence and experience, in a crime without criminals, an evil deed without evildoers.

Consider that the findings of the Ombudsman's Sept. 27 resolution are based almost entirely on hearings held **after** its June 30 decision on the Commission on Elections case: as the resolution noted, "this investigating panel conducted twelve (12) public hearings beginning 13 July 2006 to 23 August 2006."

Not one of the 10 "material witnesses and resource persons" who attended the Ombudsman's "further investigation and clarificatory" hearings, however, can be classified as new to the case; they've all been heard from before. Their testimony could not have been new to the investigators of the Ombudsman. But the June 30 resolution, according to the Ombudsman's own press release, "contains factual findings that can be used by the House of Representatives to initiate impeachment proceedings against Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra." The Sept. 27 resolution—in the language of the Ombudsman's own publicists—"absolved all respondents involved in the Mega Pacific controversy of all administrative and criminal liabilities." What happened in the three months in between?

As a careful reading of the documents involved will show, the Sept. 27 resolution offers no new facts. Indeed, many of the points raised are mere reiterations of arguments already discussed before, and rejected by, the Supreme Court. What is new, what "happened" in the last three months, is the Ombudsman's brazen reinterpretation of those same facts.

Consider the most crucial of the arguments the Supreme Court used to void the P1.3-billion automated counting machines contract: the ineligibility of the Mega Pacific Consortium to join the bid, much less to win it.

In its Sept. 27 resolution, the office of the Ombudsman recites a familiar litany of so-called proofs for the existence and the competence of the consortium, including a March 7, 2003 letter, four memorandums of agreement, and a list of almost 200 documents submitted during the bidding, before finally concluding: "On the basis of the foregoing, BAC [the Comelec's Bids and Awards Committee] evaluated and ruled that Mega Pacific Consortium had the legal, financial and technical capability to comply with contract and therefore eligible to bid."

The problem with this bold assertion is that it had already been rejected by the Supreme Court, in its January 2004 decision. We repeat: Not only is there nothing new in the Ombudsman's new resolution that would necessitate a new look at the ACM case; the facts that the Ombudsman seems to have belatedly found have already been weighed by the high court, and found wanting.

In fact, much of the majority decision was spent precisely arguing against what the Ombudsman is now blithely repeating as its finding. The Court, in highly detailed fashion, held that the company that joined the bidding and signed the contract, Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc., was in fact ineligible, and by the Comelec's own rules should have been disqualified. It also held, after studying the March 3, 2003 letter, the bid documents, and the four agreements, that the Mega Pacific Consortium did not in fact exist.

But what do we have? The Comelec sees its discredited arguments repeated in the Ombudsman's Sept. 27 resolution, and calls it vindication. The Ombudsman pretends not to have seen what it says it saw in its June 30 resolution, and calls it clarification. The Supreme Court, its hand to its nose, points to the source of the stench; the Ombudsman pretends neither to see nor smell, and calls it compliance. Thus is the rule of law undermined.

We have a trenchant saying in Filipino: He who pretends to sleep is the hardest to wake. That is why Gutierrez cannot hear the alarm going off. She is only pretending to sleep.

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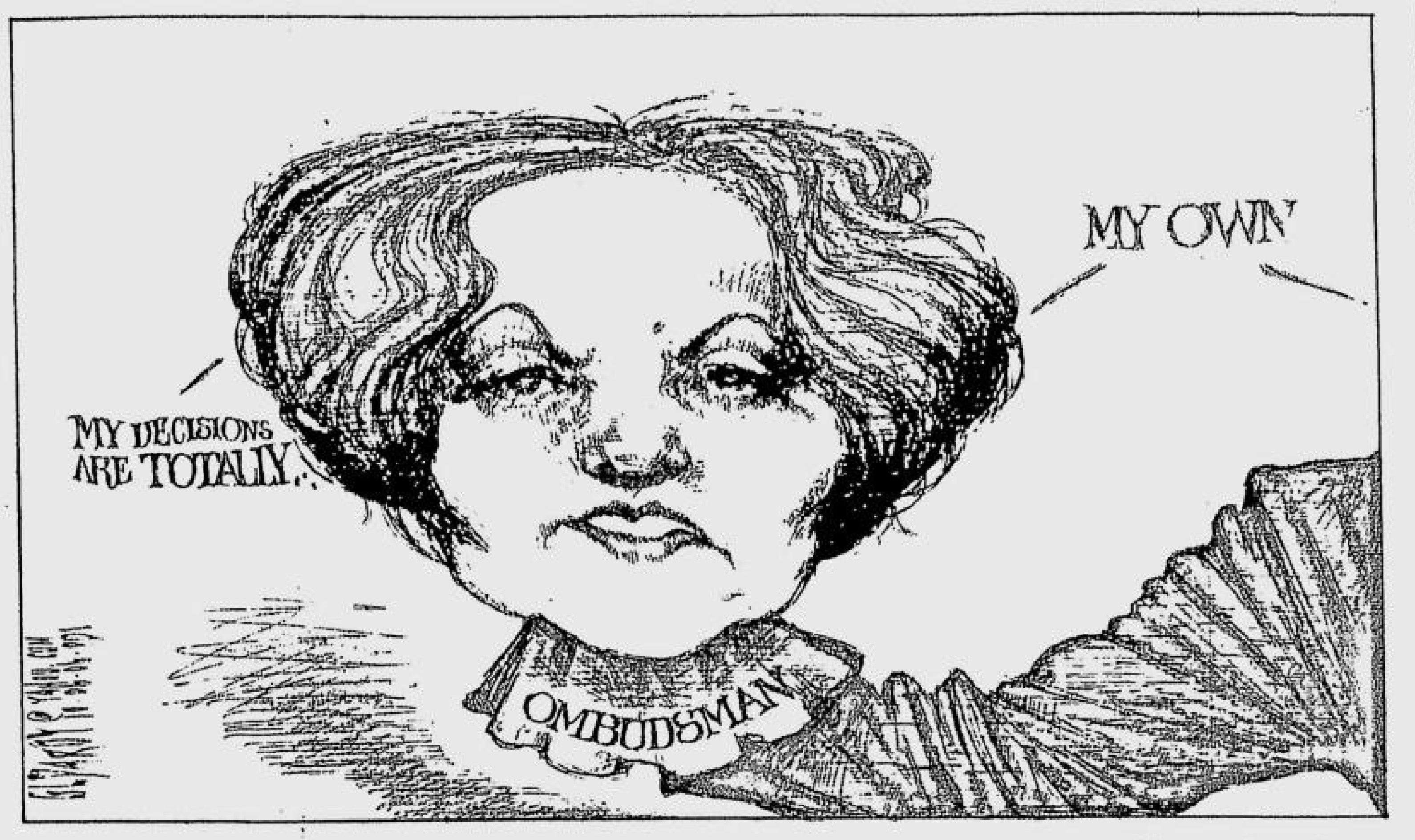

Now, even towns on mountaintops get flooded

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HAS ANYBODY NOTICED THAT THE FLOODS in the Philippines are getting deeper and more frequent? It is no longer just Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, and the España-Dapitan portions of Manila that get flooded during heavy rains but even upland areas like Antipolo. Imagine, a town on top of a mountain getting flooded. And not only just flooded but part of an upscale subdivision washed away by what used to be a tiny creek turned into a rampaging river, taking away homes and killing 14 residents.

Down below, towns like Angono, Binangonan and Cainta which have the huge Laguna Lake as catch basin for excess water also get flooded. On Mount Makiling, landslides dumped rocks and debris on the homes below. In Iloilo, a passenger jeepney crossing a bridge was washed away by rampaging waters, drowning 22 of its passengers. And the memory of the Cherry Hills landslide, the Aurora and Quezon landslides and the Ormoc flashflood and landslide are all still fresh in our minds. Reports of landslides and floods elsewhere have become too frequent. Has our government done anything to prevent repetitions of these tragedies? Of course not. The leadership is too busy trying to save itself from being kicked out of Malacañang.

Why do mountaintop towns get flooded? In a sense it is due to the greed of land developers and lot buyers. Having run out of flat land, developers mercilessly bulldoze hillsides and forested areas to make way for more and more subdivisions.

Buyers from the lowlands like them because they get a good view of the surroundings from up there. They don't realize that they put their lives and those of their families at risk. All the earth-moving by the bulldozers loosens the soil so that after heavy rains soak the ground, gravity pulls it down to the homes below.

As to the lot buyers, greed prompts them to buy lots along creeks so they can get adjoining creekside areas as free land. In fact, some real estate agents use them as a come on to prospective buyers. Under our laws, three meters on each bank of a creek is automatically an easement. It is beyond the commerce of man; it cannot be sold nor occupied. It is supposed to give the creek elbow room when it overflows its banks. But brokers tempt their buyers by telling them that they can occupy and fence off the three-meter easement right up to the creek's bank, and almost all of them do. This happens even in Metro Manila subdivisions peopled by supposedly educated and law-abiding citizens. All lots beside creeks have their fences right up to the creek banks, thus stealing the three-meter easement that rightfully belongs to the public.

Forbes Park, the enclave of the super-rich, is not exempt from this greed. A lot owner has reclaimed a portion of the creek there. Neither is Tierra Pura in Quezon City where live Vice President Noli de Castro, a senator, several congressmen and assorted other public officials. The creek that flows through Tierra Pura is fenced right up to its banks by the owners of lots along it, thus constricting the flow of water during heavy rains. As a result, it overflows its banks when it goes under the main street which then becomes flooded so deep that motorists can't pass through. They have to wait for the water to subside before they can go home.

What happens next is what happened in Antipolo and Laguna. During a heavy rain, the runoff rushes down the creek and washes away the banks (concrete or adobe fences are no protection), eating away at the subdivision lots and sending houses tumbling into the raging torrent. Had the three-meter easement been there, the excess water would flow harmlessly by and spare the homes. But because it is constricted by the fences, the creek fights back by taking with it the fences and the houses.

Some will call this poetic justice; I call it a tragedy. Local governments are supposed to see to it that the laws are followed but they would rather look the other way.

The Vice President, senator, congressmen and other public officials cannot help but see the violations of the easement law right in their own village at least twice daily. What have they done about it? Nothing, from all indications.

Obviously, like the law on billboards, the laws and rules on land development are deficient; they cannot prevent accidents, especially landslides and flooding. And also as in the rise of the billboard jungle, the local governments, especially the engineers' offices, bear the blame for the spread of substandard and dangerous subdivisions. The government engineers are supposed to study the plans to make sure that the subdivisions would be safe, but most of them seldom look at the plans. They would rather look at the amount of money inside the envelopes handed to them. In the case of billboards, they say the going rate is between P100,000 and P200,000 for each billboard. It must be much more for land development and building construction.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Is the Ombudsman's decision absolving all the Comelec commissioners and all the others involved in the Mega-Pacific counting machines scandal fair? That will be the subject of this Monday's Kapihan sa Manila.

Like Garci and Joc-Joc Bolante did before her, Ombudsgirl Merceditas Gutierrez has escaped to Switzerland. So we will have representatives from the Comelec, Mega-Pacific and the complainants to discuss the pros and cons of the controversial deal.

Hidden perils of 'conscientious objection' bill

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

CONGRESS IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING A bill that will enable health workers and hospitals to refuse to give medical care that conflict with their religious beliefs, even when this may jeopardize the life of the patient. Sadly, the bill unduly expands the right of conscience in ways that undercut the doctors' professional duty to heal and save.

Batangas Rep. Hermilando I. Mandanas has filed a bill protecting "conscientious objectors." In recent history, we have encountered them more heroically in anti-war "peaceniks" who dodged the US military draft rather than betray their religion-based objections to the Vietnam war. (In one of history's ironies, the most famous Vietnam peacenik is Cassius Clay a.k.a. Mohammad Ali, who earned his keep and kept his fame by clobbering the likes of Joe Frazier and George Foreman in the ring.)

Mandanas has been known for his admirable legal audacity. He won a landmark case in which the Supreme Court chastised the President for withholding tax collections from local governments. Mandanas' victory was a triumph for the principle of local autonomy. This time, however, I disagree with him because his bill stretches the right of conscience way beyond the Constitution's true intent, and allows all of us, not just the doctors and nurses, to sit idly by while women bleed to death, as I will explain below.

The right of conscience is protected by our Constitution as part of religious freedom. That is why it gives no sanctuary to merely secular beliefs, whether moral or philosophical, that we decide in the marketplace of ideas. Rather, it privileges only a certain type of idea, those based on faith and faith alone, and over which earthly Ceasars may not reign.

For instance, this has been invoked abroad as a defense by parents who, for religious reasons, end up being charged criminally for medical neglect of their children. Parents belonging to the Jehovah's Witnesses have refused to allow blood transfusions for their children based on a biblical ban on the "eating of blood." Christian Science parents have disavowed medical intervention and preferred to rely solely on the power of prayer. Increasingly, the courts have interceded to save the lives of children threatened by dangerous religious beliefs.

The Mandanas bill now invokes a noble and lofty right to carry out the Vatican's teaching on reproductive issues. He says we need this bill because without it, "pharmacists may be fired, harassed, or demoted for refusing to dispense birth control pills or 'emergency contraceptives' [like morning-after pills]....[D]octors [may] be required to perform sterilization or ligation, or to provide information on birth control, suicide, or abortion, despite their beliefs. [P]ublic officials may be [compelled] to deliver ... artificial birth control devices or products."

The bill's scope is, to use its own language, "expansive," and needlessly so. To start with, the right of conscience rightly belongs to flesh-and-blood persons like you and me, and not to institutions like hospitals and insurance companies. While we love to hector corporations to have a heart, we must not mistake metaphor for fact. The right of conscience is based on the "free exercise" clause that insulates the solitary individual, who must be let alone to worship and believe. Corporations may invoke free speech and other rights, but how conceivably can they practice a religion? Indeed, how can government hospitals, sworn by law to be secular?

Also, the right may be invoked only by health-care professionals directly involved in the actual treatment of patients. Yet the bill extends the right even to clerical and service staff who do routine non-clinical work. The European human rights court has rebuked a doctor's secretary who refused to sign a referral to another physician.

Moreover, the bill enables them to refuse to give "health care service," and then defines "service" very broadly. They can refuse to even merely recommend or refer the patient to another doctor. Sure, the doctor has the right to his conscience but the patient too has the right to timely and scientifically competent medical care. The bill says: "Nothing [here] prevents others from providing the health care service to which a conscientious objection has been made." What it means is: We won't do it for you, and we won't tell you where you can find someone who will. The bill shrugs off this most fundamental of ethical duties.

The bill explains that it poses no danger to the lives of patients because it applies only to "elective services," rather than life-saving procedures. Actual experience, however, shows that unsympathetic hospitals have turned away women with post-abortion complications, often with dismissive comments that this is God's punishment for those who sin. Abortion is prohibited in the Philippines; that is the law. But so is election cheating, yet Garci and Ma'am would surely be VIP patients if they got tonsillitis. Since the doctors' right to conscience is already preserved by the existing ban on abortion, the proposed bill extends its reach to medical problems that health professionals remain duty-bound to treat.

The bill thus fails the threshold requirement of all human rights treaties: equality and non-discrimination. In lawyer-talk, it is neutral on its face but discriminatory as applied because of its "disparate, gender-specific impact." In normal people's language, it is the women who will pay the price.

Mao said women hold up half the sky. Can there be a right, can there be a conscience, that belongs to just the other half of the heavens?

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

A craven hatchet job

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE SHOT-GUN BLAST FIRED BY PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, at the Philippine press when he laid criminal libel charges against 43 journalists at all levels of the media hierarchy—from publishers, editors, columnists to reporters—escalates the grudge warfare she has been waging against the press.

Mind you, the charges did not come directly from the President, but it makes things even more pernicious that the action was mounted by a person, who is personally close to her and who does not hold an executive or elective position, in what is beyond doubt an act of harassment of the members of the press.

As pointed out by Christopher Warren, president of the International Federation of Journalists, the carpet-bombing cases were not only "outrageous," but were "deeply concerning that the husband of the President, a man of considerable influence and power, can try and hinder free speech by suing journalists to submission."

In filing the cases, Mike Arroyo is clearly acting as proxy for his wife, doing a craven hatchet job on her behalf. In the light of this development, the Philippine press should realize that the President has cranked up the conflict to the point where no prisoners are taken, and that this is an issue that goes beyond who wins or losses the cases in the courts of justice.

The cases have handed the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines the occasion to raise the fundamental issue of passage of legislation to decriminalize libel which has been used by those offended by the press as a weapon for intimidation and jailing journalists in their effort to gag the vigilant press.

The cases filed by Mike Arroyo are unprecedented in that they represent the highest number of respondents in the history of the Philippine press. The omnibus attack shocks and appalls even the most hard-boiled veteran Filipino journalists.

As I scan the list of 43 defendants, it embraces a broad spectrum of journalists of varying degrees of competence, excellence and dedication to their calling and adherence to principles. Mike Arroyo's action, in one bold sweep, has done what no one—whether public official or not—has ever done before: lumping all journalists in one social category against which something like a class suit can be used. He is apparently trying to show that he has power to get back at his tormentors in the press, using the legal system to settle scores with them.

When the NUJP pressed Malacañang for its position on the petition signed by 300 Filipino journalists and more than 20 local and foreign press organizations asking the President to certify legislation decriminalizing libel, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said he was not aware of any such legislation. The President, in her traditional speech at the Gridiron Night of the National Press Club, dodged the issue and instead lectured the press on "responsible" journalism.

The problem of Philippine governance is not abusive or irresponsible journalism. The worst abuses of journalism arising from the exercise of press freedom pales in comparison with the abuses of those in power, whose nemesis is a free press. In filing the cases, Mike Arroyo is using the legal system to undermine and crush the relatively liberal tradition of the judicial system in protecting press freedom. The cases serve to underscore the need for Congress to bring to a resolution as a matter of public policy the issue of removing the penal fangs of libel, the most repressive constraint on the freedom of the press to hold public officials accountable to the voters and taxpayers.

The cases are an insidious development in the curtailment of the investigative functions of journalism, especially taken in the context of the alarmingly high number of killings of Filipino journalists. Since 1986, 86 journalists have been killed in what Amnesty International called "a pattern of politically targeted extrajudicial executions taking place within the broader context of a continuing counterinsurgency campaign."

A total of 46 journalists were killed from 2001 up to the present, during the Arroyo administration. Law enforcement authorities have not pinpointed responsibility for the executions in most of these cases. While human rights groups have not directly accused the administration of instigating the executions, the climate of impunity has served to undercut respect for legal processes in redressing grievances against perceived abuses of journalists. It has also encouraged widespread public perception that the administration is condoning the culture of impunity in the pursuit of its deep-seated vendetta against the press, which it perceives to be generally hostile.

The 43 libel complaints open a new front (in the legal sector) of reprisal on the sectors of the press perceived by the administration to be highly critical. When the President declared a state of national emergency in February in response to a coup attempt, the proclamation identified segments of media as part of a conspiracy among the mutinous military units and leftist groups to overthrow her government. The libel cases unfurl a new pincer action as an extension of the continuing attempt to browbeat the press to submission. The disturbing problem facing journalists is that an independent press does not have too many friends in government or in the legislature, where legislation decriminalizing libel will be fought.

How much more can we take?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"THIS IS LIKE SAYING A RAPE WAS INDEED perpetrated, but there was no rapist," remarked Enteng Romano, lead convenor of the Black and White Movement, in the wake of the Ombudsman's decision to clear the Comelec leadership in the voided Mega Pacific deal.

"The Ombudsman has committed grave abuse of discretion, not even bothering to point us in the right direction. Who shall we hold accountable?" asked Romano, whose group has previously pushed for the resignation, if not impeachment, of the entire Comelec in connection with the botched election modernization program.

The Ombudsman panel's decision is certainly puzzling, an incredible display of naiveté, if not arrogance toward the highest court of the land. After all, the Supreme Court in 2004 had already declared that the awarding of the P1.3-billion contract to Mega Pacific was illegal and violated the Comelec's own bidding rules. Charged with determining who among the Comelec officials were guilty of criminal liability, the Ombudsman took its own sweet time following the Supreme Court's bidding, despite its clear mandate to investigate, charge and prosecute government employees accused of graft and corruption. In this instance, the Supreme Court and a Senate investigation had already laid the groundwork and the basis for possible charges for the Ombudsman. But not only did the Ombudsman dilly-dally in its assigned task, requiring the Supreme Court to remind it twice of its responsibility, it now turns around and says: Sure, there was irregularity, but no one's to blame for it!

* * *

THERE'S more at stake here than just a possibly miffed tribunal and an incompetent Ombudsman panel.

The Supreme Court itself had declared that "Truly, the pith and soul of democracy—credible, orderly, and peaceful elections—have been put in jeopardy by the illegal and abusive acts of the Comelec." The irregularities that attended the grant of the contract to provide the counting machines had put the election body's credibility and competence, as well as the integrity of its officials, in serious doubt. There was need, therefore, to bring the Supreme Court's decision to its logical conclusion, to assign blame and mete out punishment to the erring officials—if only to clear the way for the reconstitution of a new Comelec leadership that would enjoy the public's confidence and trust.

With elections less than a year away, there's hardly any time left to rehabilitate the Comelec's image, much less prepare the ground for an automated voting process. And now, with the same old discredited faces left in place and seemingly exonerated in a criminal case for which no one is responsible, even tiny steps forward seem impossible.

Worse, the Ombudsman's about-face could send a signal to potential cheats and electoral fraudsters that it'll be "business as usual" next year. With the integrity of the highest officials of the election body in grave doubt, what's to prevent poll officials down the line from pulling their own profitable stunts?

* * *

ALREADY, we're hearing from eager-beavers who can't wait to take advantage of the situation.

The President's Chief of Staff Mike Defensor delightedly declared that the Ombudsman's decision "had given new impetus to a plan to use Mega Pacific's computers" to computerize the elections. This, despite the Supreme Court's observation that the same machines were "vulnerable to election fraud on a massive scale by means of just a few key strokes."

Then again, maybe making it difficult for cheating to take place in next year's polls is not the point of the exercise. As evident from the eagerness with which the Ombudsman has cleared everyone in the Comelec and in Mega Pacific involved in the transaction, and the alacrity with which Malacañang is now embracing the discredited computers, the opposite is holding true. The point of all these moves is to make it even easier to cheat in the elections, and we're talking not just penny-ante *dagdag-bawas*, but "fraud on a massive scale."

One has to wonder at the amazing patience and tolerance of the Filipino public, which has already shown astounding complacency regarding the questionable results of the 2004 elections, a tainted presidential mandate, repression and active persecution of critics and now, the sweeping exoneration of officials whom the Supreme Court had found, at best, complicit in the commission of a fraud against the Filipino people. Indeed, how much more can we take? And how long do we have to wait before all our frustrations come boiling up to the surface?

* * *

"TICKLED Pink" bills itself as "a different kind of bazaar," the most outstanding feature being that the vendors will be donating a hefty portion of their profits to the I Can Serve Foundation, an advocacy group that embarks on high-impact, breast cancer information campaigns and links women's cancer patient groups around the country. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"Tickled Pink" will be held from Oct. 14 to 15, Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at The Loft in Rockwell.

A few, select vendors of fashion items and home accessories will be selling goods from exporters who rarely sell or display their merchandise in the local market. Other vendors who are introducing their products to the market for the first time will also be participating.

The Philippines reports the highest incidence of breast cancer in Southeast Asia, and groups like I Can Serve need more support for their efforts to inform Filipino women about their risks of breast cancer and what they can do to protect and treat themselves. So see you at The Loft next weekend. Let's all get tickled pink!

Museums

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

I WAS IN CAGAYAN DE ORO RECENTLY TO deliver a talk on "Youth and Museums" in Xavier University. I accepted the invitation because it was an excuse to see my friend Fr. Miguel Bernad, my former Theology teacher Fr. Asandas Balchand, and university president Jett Villarin. Having studied at the Ateneo de Manila, I feel at home in any Jesuit institution.

The Museo de Oro was founded by Father Demetrio, whose class on folklore I attended at UP with Gilda Cordero Fernando, but I don't remember much of what he said because he had written these down in his numerous books, and because I was so distracted by the brown paper bag he carried containing his diabetic safety kit: a banana, a can of coke, with a few hard candies thrown in. Now the collection that he lovingly collected is permanently and professionally displayed, and Cagayan de Oro is lucky to have a museum worth visiting.

During the Centennial year, I was invited to give a talk to teachers in Cagayan de Oro and for some reason, it was not held in a school or university but in what looked like a water theme park. I was hardly given time to see the city, but I insisted on at least getting a five-minute tour of Museo de Oro. It was there that I was surprised to find an original menu card that tells us what our founding fathers ate in September 1898 when they ratified the Declaration of Independence of June 12, 1898. Almost all historians were familiar with the menu in French, as reproduced in black and white in Harper's "History of the War." I had never thought I would ever see the original menu, this one being probably one of two remaining copies in the entire universe.

Nick Joaquin wrote about this menu once, going as far as to state that the Malolos menu had the same importance as the Malolos Constitution, because it was an artifact that showed the Philippines and the Filipinos coming of age. When I gave a lecture on the menu to Chaine des Rotisseurs, there were many questions asked, like: How come there was no soup? How did they make the ice cream? So when I saw the Malolos menu in Museo de Oro, I would not have given it a second look except that the text was different from what we were familiar with, the *dejeuner* or lunch menu, as this one in Cagayan was the dinner menu! Someday I hope to find, if it does exist, the breakfast menu.

While I appreciate the educational task of museums, I think our best efforts are still not enough to get the youth hooked on museums. The fact that I do not have any clear or happy memories of museum visits from my childhood is an indication that much needs to be done. I only started to be aware and appreciative of museums when I was much older (in high school and college), and the reason was that I had some background knowledge from reading that made me understand the exhibits on display.

There is a scene in "The Da Vinci Code" where somebody asks the hero how he knew the Louvre was the first place to look even as he looks at the parquet floor that I am also familiar with: those long corridors filled with many paintings that would cause cultural indigestion. Fortunately, I know my Greek and Roman mythology, I know my Bible stories and the iconographic symbols of the saints and thus where someone with no background would see as just another picture, one among many, I have a whole universe of meaning opened to me.

There are four Philippine museums I remember from my youth. One was the old UST Museum before it was arranged professionally. It was dark and scary and you had a wide assortment of things to see, from stuffed animals to ancient coins and religious paintings. In the National Museum, I visited Luna's "Spoliarium" and marveled at its size and the power that emanated from the gore on the canvas. My only question was, where is Filipinas here? Is this truly an allegory of the colonial condition, or did Luna just paint what all his classmates also painted for the Madrid Expo of 1884?

My interest in Luna led me to the Lopez Memorial Museum. And then, of course, there is the museum in San Agustin inside the only structure of Old Manila left standing after the Battle for Manila in 1945. Here I would look at San Pedro Martir, he with a bloody bolo slicing into his skull.

I enjoyed these museums because I was curious and this is what being young and childlike brings.

These days when I see numerous schoolchildren being herded into the National Museum and made to walk hurriedly and aimlessly through the halls with no preparation, I know that we are losing them. What makes matters worse is when they are being rushed because they have to get to a TV studio by noon and the shopping mall by *merienda* time. We have to do something about the attitude young people have toward museums.

When I read the reaction papers of my college students who have visited the Metropolitan Museum, I gather that they were bored with the pre-historic Philippine earthenware, they were awed by the pre-colonial gold, but for many, the highlight of the trip was going to a Bench store that had items not available in other Bench outlets! If museums are important in teaching us about our heritage, how come people are not breaking down doors to visit them? What aren't we doing right?

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Can Chinoys dance?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

ANYONE CAN DANCE, SOME OF YOU WILL SAY, BUT WHAT I mean here is really dance—you know, as in gyrate and swing, glide, hop, whatever's needed.

Now think, have you heard of any Chinese making it big in dance, whether classical ballet, ballroom dancing or plain old "American Idol"-type competitions?

Hey, some of you are thinking, is Mike Tan your relative? You know, the one who won two years ago in the "Star Struck" competitions? Now, biases aside, he was good, despite his monosyllabic surname and sometimes, when I'm asked, I joke that he's my son.

I'm sure most of you are incredulous too, not just because you can't imagine the columnist Mike Tan as a breeder (smile) but also because if I could transmit my genes, it just wouldn't configure to produce someone musical. Nerdy genes yes, but dance, as in dance, dance, no.

(Pout, pout.) I understand. We all work on stereotypes, foremost of which are the ethnic ones, and the stereotypes use a lot of what social scientists call "naturalizing" or "essentializing." We associate certain behaviors, or certain personality traits, with particular ethnic groups and eventually think those behaviors and traits are innate, coming with the genes.

Intsik or Chinoy? We think immediately of someone good in math, almost as if there are abacus-shaped blood cells flowing through our veins. As a corollary to that, we think of Chinoys mainly as shrewd business people. But ask an American what they think of when they hear "Chinese-American," and they'll say "scientists" or "doctors."

We form our stereotypes based on people we know, and on our daily encounters. Americans see all the high-achieving Chinese-American scientists on newscasts. In the Philippines, our idea of the Chinoy math whiz comes from having classmates in college who breezed through calculus. And because we're constantly encountering Chinoy owners of businesses, we think all Chinoys are good in business.

We're less aware of how the Chinoy have excelled in other professions. In the last medical board exam, among the 15 topnotchers, 7 had those monosyllabic Chinese surnames. But a typical Filipino is less likely to associate medicine with the Chinoys because the Chinoy doctors tend to work in the cities, sometimes in hospitals catering mainly to other Chinoys, or migrate overseas.

Nurture

I'm going to argue now that there's nothing "innate" about all this. If the Chinoy seems good at math, it's because many go through Chinese schools where math is emphasized. Some Chinese schools still offer six years of high school, where students finish the whole range of math sciences—algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus—before they graduate.

There's also the teaching style in many of the Chinese schools. Because Chinese doesn't use an alphabet, you have to learn to recognize thousands of characters, each with its own specific meaning. Learning to read and write Chinese requires rote memory work, done through drills and exercises where you repeat the word over and over again.

This rote style is used as well to teach math. Long before Kumon was introduced to the Philippines, the Chinese schools were using similar drills for math. At Xavier, a Chinoy Jesuit school, we were even taught to use the abacus. I know the contraption's obsolete now, but the exercise alone of connecting the hands (to push the beads up and down) and the brain (as we muttered the numbers represented in the beads) went a long way to get us familiar with the numbers.

Beyond pedagogical styles, there was a whole culture of schooling with very strong pressure to achieve, to excel. School never really ends in East Asian cultures. I remember being rather envious about cousins who didn't have to go off to a Chinese school as they had classes from about 8 to 3, while I had to be in school from 7:30 to 5. And wait, there's more: I did have piano lessons after class for several years, and then shifted to violin lessons, with my teacher coming in at 6:30 in the morning!

In a word then, the differences come from nurture, from the kind of cultural knowledge, skills and attitudes we develop, starting with very young children.

Ph.D.

I'm not saying the Chinese system is superior. It is a good system, but there's more to learning than rote memory and drills and non-stop work. I've learned to appreciate the Pinoy side to my Chinoy environment, one which allows more intuitive "fun-based" learning as well.

Notice in Filipino families, when there's a visitor, parents will often call their young kids to come out: "Oh, you sing (or dance) *naman* for Tita." That's still unthinkable in many Chinoy families, because singing and dancing are seen as coarse. No one would dream of letting a child become a dancer. No wonder then that the Chinese can't seem to excel in these areas. Even in China, where ballroom dancing has become popular, the dancers don't quite have it because they're, well, too disciplined.

Now, don't think Filipinos are the best dancers in the world. We encourage kids to sing and dance, but our dancing also sometimes becomes too self-conscious because we tend to overemphasize performance, rather than spontaneity. I've visited Latin-American families, and there, the children are allowed more freedom with their bodies as they dance. In a Brazilian samba place many years ago, I picked up a T-shirt with a slogan that said it all: "Not better, but different." That reflects another type of thinking, another culture which produces the amazing dancers and musicians you see from Latin America.

I suspect "Star Struck's" Mike Tan grew up in an environment that allowed him to sing, to dance, from a very early age.

Mike Tan the columnist, on the other hand, was always discouraged from dancing. "You've got three left feet," a Chinoy relative announced one day with finality, shattering all hopes for dancing, even for fun.

But I'm going to get back yet, through my Yna. From the day she was born, she's been encouraged to move, to gyrate, to sway, sometimes with music, sometimes to her own rhythm, sometimes to the rhythm of people carrying her, and that includes me. We dance a lot, to different kinds of music, lullabies even, and I know my Chinoy relatives would be shocked to see her dancing while I cheer her on. So I wasn't surprised this morning when her preschool teacher gave me their semestral assessment, which included: "Her motor skills are good ... and hey, she's good with dancing."

Yna'll get to dance more, but she's going to get a healthy dose, too, of math and astronomy and botany, and when the time comes, she can choose to dance, to do a Ph.D. or, hey, why not dance and do a Ph.D.?

Yes, Chinoys can—should—dance.

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Why Filipinos stay in the United States

WITH DUE RESPECT TO BOTH WRITers Michael Tan (PDI, 9/15/06) and Arturo Reyes (PDI, 9/29/06), I wish to point out something. I am certain that Tan's statistics and information are well-researched. I am just as certain that Reyes' statistics and information are based on experienced. That is why I can't dispute their points of contention. What I'd like to do is give both sides another perspective. Goals determine behavior, and that is why people prefer to live in the United States.

Because America is the land of opportunity in many ways, shape and form, people choose to immigrate to this country, be it for permanent residency or for employment purposes only. People who immigrate to America and decide to reside here after a while rest on the consequences.

We have to remember that consequences maintain behaviors. Reyes' letter was very specific in his discussion. He only referred to people who immigrate to the United States. But what about the Filipinos who have been here for a while, whose families grew in number and have seen the rest of the world and yet preferred to live here? It is quite insensitive to argue a point when we are only referring to one, specific group.

Tan's column, on the other hand, was very general. Therefore, there may be exceptions to his generalization. We always look for something better. Even if that is no better than what we can have in some other place.

I remember the ad about the Philippines—Philippines 2000. The only things I saw that changed there were the infrastructure and the people (they became older), but their way of thinking remained. Maybe, this is what we need—the American way of thinking, so that we can compare or even move on a little.

I love the Philippines so much, and if I were to choose a place to visit, I would prefer my motherland every time. Although the Philippines does not give me the same opportunities as America does, I will one day retire there to share what I have learned from the land of opportunity.

—ALAINA RAE RIVERA,
alainarae33@yahoo.com

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Needlessly inflammatory stereotyping of 150 million American males

IN READING RINA JIMENEZ-DAVID'S "Open letter to Nicole" (PDI, 9/22/06), I was disappointed to read this line: "... and this simply illustrates that to American men all Filipinas are prostitutes."

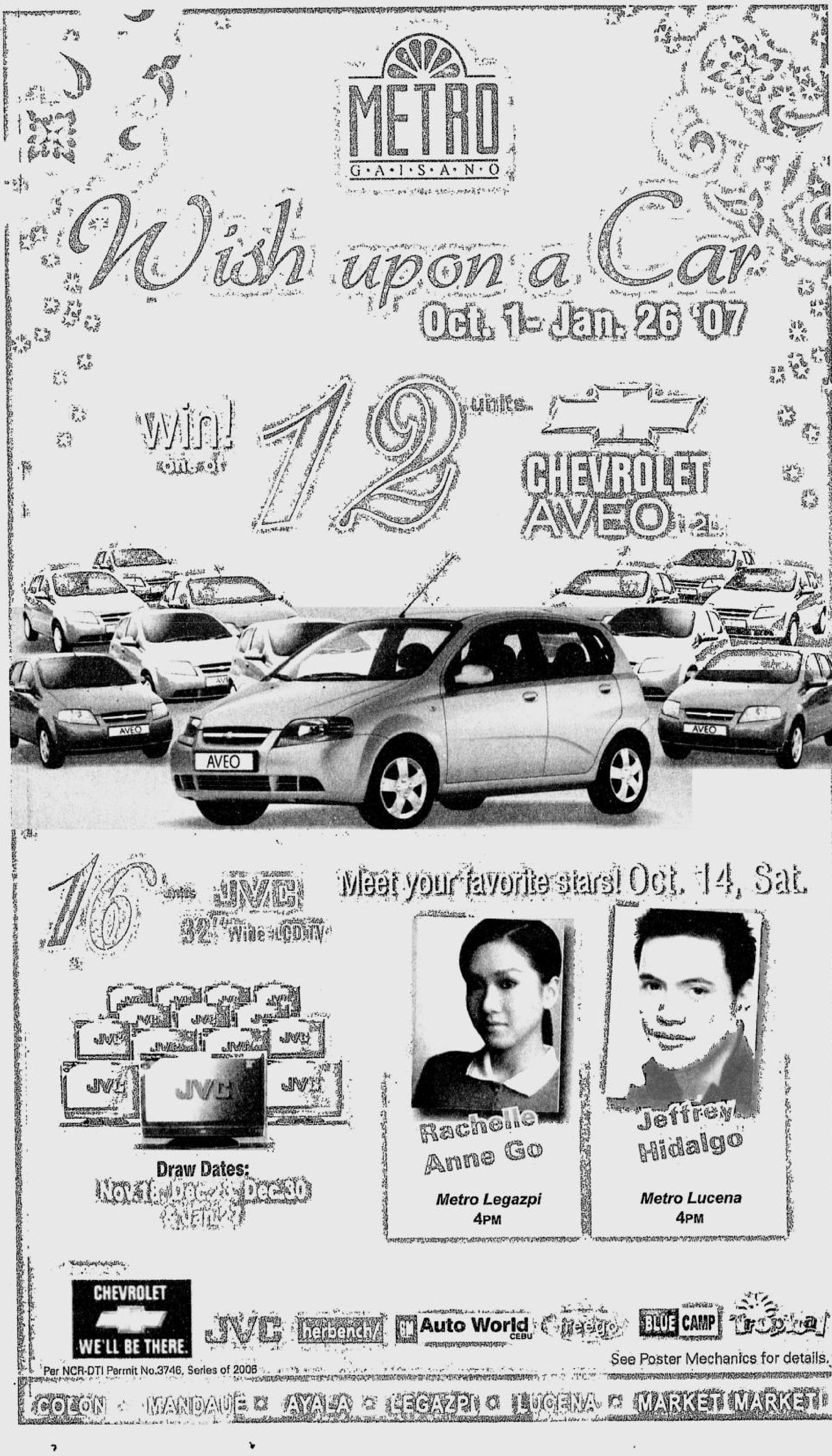
She may have been paraphrasing other papers' editorials but, in her words, I recognized a kind of small-mindedness that I have heard expressed by people in the many countries I have been to, as well as in my own—the United States of America—a voice of nationalism, prejudice and bigotry. It turns my stomach. Evolution did not end with us growing thumbs—our actions and words show our personal evolution of the mind, and such boondoggle flag-waving and ignorant comments are down with the cockroaches.

David should be wary of karma debits rung up in God's cash register, as we are all foreigners outside of our own country. We should all hope that such vile generalizations aren't being written about her own countrymen in Taiwanese newspapers ("All Filipinos are murderers") or in New Caledonia ("All Filipinos are job stealers and must be kicked out of the country").

It might be easy to write such garbage about such a heated issue as the US Marines vs Nicole case and get support. But I am an American who has loved and treated Filipinos with respect in the decade I've lived here, and I strenuously object to such needlessly inflammatory rhetoric. The stereotyping of over 150 million American males (almost 2 million of which are of Filipino heritage) shows that David is writing on auto-pilot, and doesn't realize the offensive nature of her words.

Perhaps someday, David will open her mind and realize that the hues of flesh and passports are merely accessories and accoutrements of division, and that they are less important in the greater balance than we think. Judge a man by his actions, not by his flag or nationality, and get both sides of the story. Evolution, baby.

—CHIP CHILDERS,
Chippu7@hotmail.com



Spare the innocent

I PASSED THE JUNE BOARD LICENSURE exam for nurses, and I would like to say that it is unfair for us successful examinees here in Davao City to have to retake that exam. We did not benefit from any leakage of exam questions and answers in any way. We poured our time, effort and money to study and review for that exam.

Most of us have started working as nurses. An order for an exam retake would deprive us of our jobs and source of livelihood. We have families to support!

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

Some other government officials do not see the injustice being committed to innocent people who are becoming victims of the foolishness in Metro Manila. People here in Mindanao have no connection to the leakage in the areas under investigation.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, please spare people who are innocent, people who did not cheat.—**Leonard Wong, Davao City (via e-mail)**

* * *

I took the nursing board exam last June and the next day flew here to Buffalo, New York, with my husband because he was about to start his residency training in Internal/Preventive Medicine. I was happy to know that I passed the exam although I really didn't have an adequate review because we were preoccupied with preparations for our move to the United States.

I had nothing to do with the exam scandal and I know many others are in the same situation, and yet our careers are hanging by a thread. I just hope that if Malacañang really wants to have the exam retaken, it should consider the plight of innocent people like me. I don't really know if I can go home this December to take the exam because of my husband's hectic schedule and the cost.—**Melannie Co, New York (via e-mail)**

* * *

The government could repay the review fees and the cost of review materials, etc., but it cannot repay the mental anguish we went through in preparing for that board exam, and the time being wasted in waiting for our licenses to be released. We turned our days into nights, and we were probably walking zombies as we gathered all the knowledge we had gained in four years of nursing school, just to pass the exam, be awarded our licenses, see our parents happy and proud, and repay the blood, sweat and tears they shed to send us to nursing school. We sacrificed a lot!

The board exam is not the only way we can prove our competence. Give us our licenses so we can show that we deserve them, and we will do everything in our power to protect that license.

If there is a "stigma" on the profession, which is why some government officials want a retake, the solution is just simple: We will live in such a way that will prove them wrong!

We are not sacrificial lambs. We are nurses with hearts full of compassion to serve humanity, and minds that know what is wrong and what is not.—**Karisna Khate Sesante, Cebu City (via e-mail)**

* * *

Whether we like it or not, the leakage has diminished the credibility of the results of the exam as well as the professional credibility of the examinees who passed the exam. While most of the successful examinees may not have benefited from the leakage, let's think about the bigger picture. Until we have a retake and try to regain some respect for the profession, there will always be lingering doubts about the integrity and worthiness of Filipino nurses. Our country depends a lot on remittances of OFWs, most especially nurses, and the last thing we want is for our nurses to be branded as cheaters and for foreigners to look condescendingly on Filipino nurses.

Those who are adamant against taking the exam again are either among the cheaters or they must have passed the board by sheer luck. I for one would not want to entrust the care of my health and that of my family to a cheater or to a "lucky" nurse.—**Jose Santiago, Cebu City (via e-mail)**

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Billions of pesos in crops destroyed

APART FROM ALMOST 200 DEAD PEOPLE AND THOUSANDS OF families left homeless in Southern Luzon and Eastern Visayas, Typhoon "Milenyo" destroyed billions of pesos worth of agricultural crops and infrastructure facilities, according to reports obtained by the INQUIRER from local government and disaster officials.

Sorsogon province had the biggest losses, with an initial P2.2 billion in damages that Sorsogon City administrator Butch Galarosa said could go up as reports from other barangays and the city's agriculture, social welfare and engineering departments were still being prepared.

Albay placed the damage to agriculture at P920.2 million and infrastructure at P289.7 million, while Camarines Sur estimated the damage to agriculture to have reached P222 million, and infrastructure, P129.4 million.

Laguna had P222.6 million worth of lost farm crops and more than P100 million in destroyed infrastructure.

Sorsogon

City Schools Division superintendent Dr. Virgilio Real said no less than P51 million worth of school properties had been damaged, the biggest of which was incurred by the Sorsogon National High School.

SNHS principal Dr. Purita Jimenez said most of their buildings suffered varying degrees of damage, including the computer room with 21 computer sets valued at P1.4 million.

The Sorsogon Electric Cooperative (Soreco) reported P60 million in damages.

Laguna

Milenyo in Laguna had damaged 6,340.8 hectares planted with rice, fruit trees, corn and various varieties of vegetables with a total harvest volume of 23,643.8 metric tons, the provincial information office said.

Infrastructures destroyed included the Calumpang-Sta. Cruz dam worth P36 million; 30-unit fish cages—P150 million; and fingerlings worth P110 million. Raisers of farm animals reported losses of P18.4 million.

The Laguna Irrigation System also suffered damages amounting to P112.1 million with 2,868 ha affected along with the 2,323 farmers dependent on it.

Costs of vital infrastructures, including school buildings, damaged amounted to P111.5 million

Colleges and universities were also ravaged, including the University of the Philippines Los Baños, which Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco said incurred losses of almost P125 million.

Camarines Sur

Damages to electrical facilities reached more than P45 million, according to the Albay Electric Cooperative. About 1,130 damaged wooden, concrete and steel poles, around 50,000 meters of electrical wire, and 394 district transformers were damaged by Milenyo.

Realoza said they had to replace every damaged wooden post with a steel pole amounting to at least P7,000 each.

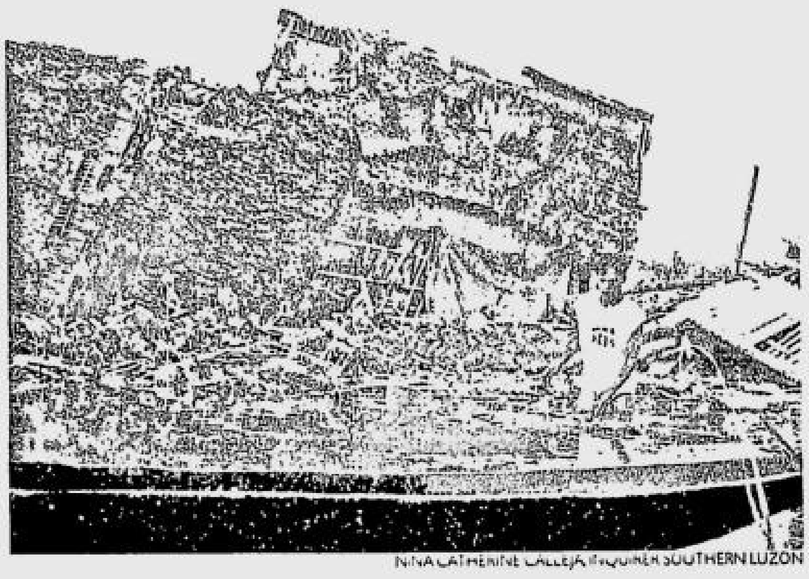
Eastern Visayas

In Eastern Visayas, the damage due to Milenyo has now reached more than P300 million, which could still go up as Adriano Fuego, chief of the regional Office of Civil Defense (OCD-8), said they only had partial reports.

As of Wednesday, OCD-8 reported that damage to infrastructure has now reached P248.45 million while P52.37 million worth of agricultural and fishery products were destroyed.

Northern Samar had the most damage in infrastructure at P113 million. *Bobby Q. Labalan, Delfin Mallari Jr., Ephraim Aguilar, Niña Catherine Calleja and Joanna Los Banos, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

Sorsogon alone suffered at least P2.2 billion in losses



A MAN wades in Laguna Lake in Barangay Malinta hoping to find more stuff to save from the waters after these were blown off by winds from Typhoon "Milenyo." The UP Los Banos Student Council helped donate canned goods, noodles and rice to families who lost homes.

NINA CATHERINE CALLEJA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Row on parking causes friction between Baguio City execs, Church

BAGUIO CITY—BISHOP CARLITO CENZON led the crusade against a local pay parking firm, which managed to get Mayor Braulio Yaranon suspended until the end of his term.

But a member of the city council is now looking at Cenzon's own backyard because of a pay parking operation at the Baguio Cathedral that is allegedly as anomalous as that of the Jadewell Pay Parking Corp.

Councilor Federico Mandapat on Monday filed a proposed measure that orders Catholic Church officials here to stop the parking project on the cathedral's grounds.

Citing legal documents and an official inventory supplied by the city engineering office, Mandapat said the road looping around the cathedral is owned by the city and is therefore "beyond the commerce of man."

The Church has put iron gates and charges motorists P20 for parking inside church grounds for two hours. Attendants charge motorists an hourly penalty of P10 for parking beyond the two-hour limit.

"[The road] is a private property of the Church and it is titled. We protect our own private property," Cenzon told the INQUIRER.

He said the Church has written the city government an official letter defending its right to operate its own parking system, and asserting its right over church roads.

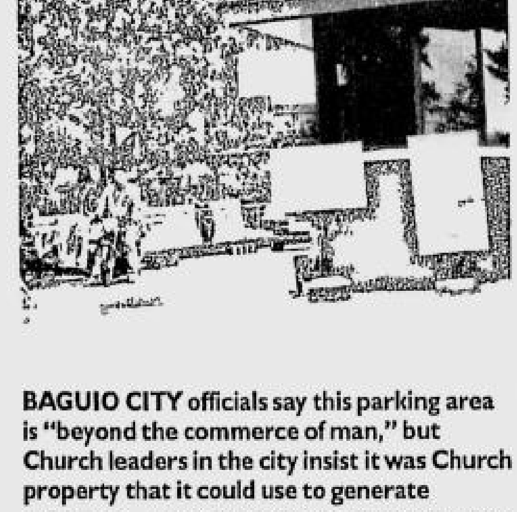
But the bishop did not react to reports that the council action was the fallout from his involvement in the lobby against Jadewell.

Mandapat said his proposed measure was not meant to retaliate against the bishop.

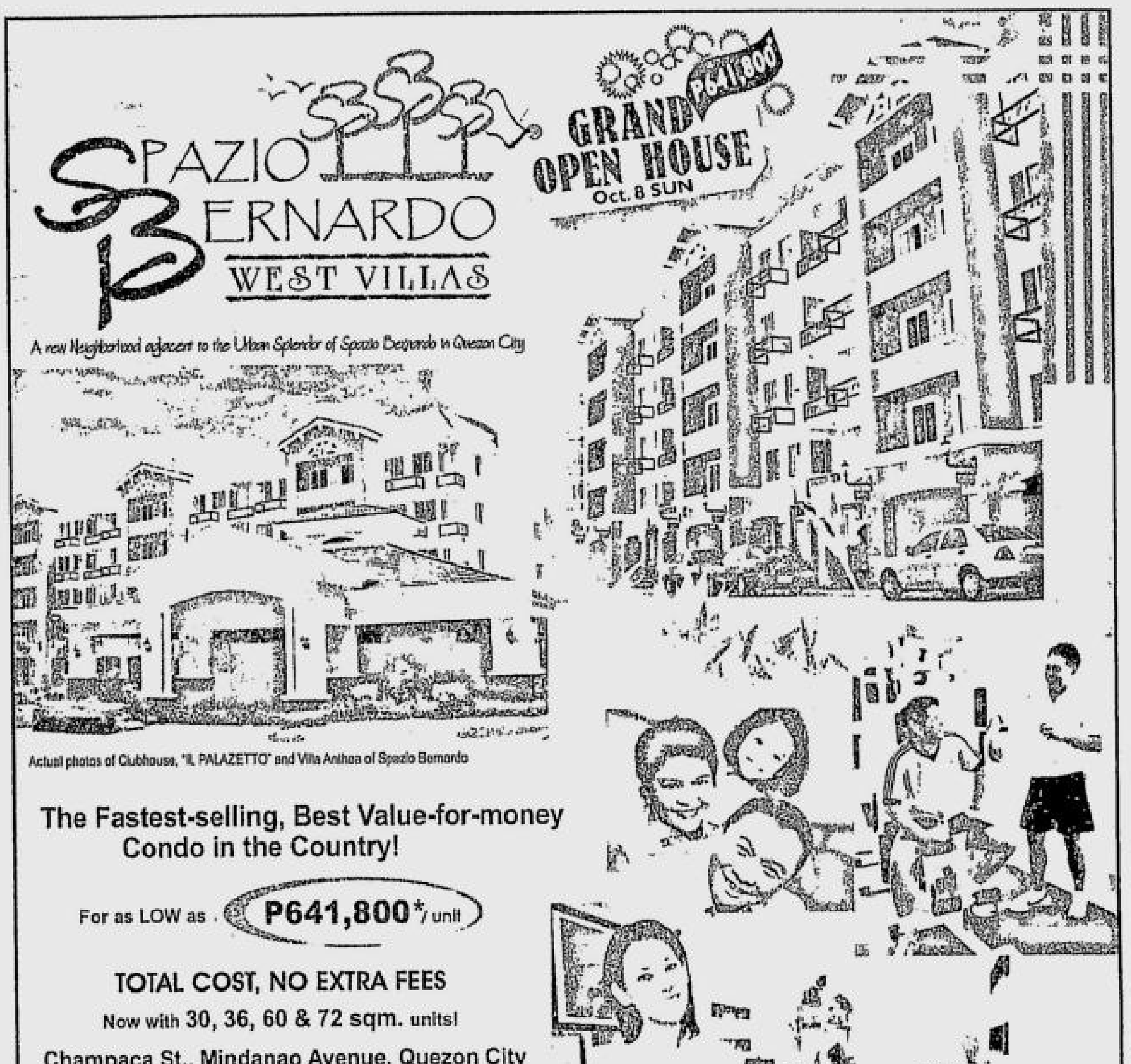
But he said the council cannot ignore the fact that the Church has violated the rules it claimed Jadewell abused when it operated its own pay parking project.

Yaranon and an anticorruption group led by Cenzon used a similar argument when it opposed the contract awarded to Jadewell.

Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon



BAGUIO CITY **officials say this parking area is "beyond the commerce of man," but Church leaders in the city insist it was Church property that it could use to generate revenues.** VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON



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Removal of Petron fuel to start December

BACOLOD CITY—THE OPERATION to remove the bunker fuel from the sunken MT Solar I off the coast of Guimaras is scheduled to begin in December.

Rafael Coscolluela, presidential adviser for Western Visayas, said Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz has submitted a report setting the timetable for the removal of the fuel.

The report said the December target was set after Måns Jacobsson, International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC) executive director, has endorsed the proposal to siphon out the bunker fuel from the sunken vessel.

The IOPC executive committee was expected to approve Jacobsson's endorsement at its meeting in London on Oct. 23, Coscolluela said.

The London-based IOPC provides compensation for oil pollution damage caused by oil spills from tankers.

The MT Solar I sank on Aug. 11 with 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel owned by Petron Corp. At least 250,000 liters of its load had been spilled into the sea, causing major environmental disaster in the coasts of Guimaras and in some coastal parts of northern Iloilo.

The Philippine Coast Guard early this week reported that bunker fuel was still leaking out from the sunken tanker, at 5 liters an hour.

Coscolluela said a favorable decision is expected from the IOPC on the siphoning out of the fuel from MT Solar 1.

He said Cruz, who chairs Task Force Guimaras, also reported that engineering work was currently ongoing to determine how to siphon out the oil in the swiftest manner.

After the IOPC decision, it is expected that it will take a month to mobilize a vessel to undertake the siphoning, which Coscolluela said was expected by the end of November or in early December.

The removal operation could take a month to complete, Coscolluela said.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon, meanwhile, said he was alarmed by the Coast Guard report that the oil continues to leak out of the sunken tanker.

Marañon was reacting to a letter of regional Coast Guard commander Luis Tuason Jr. on Monday informing officials in the region that a minimal amount of oil was continuously leaking at the source of the oil spill.

Even if the leak was minimal, the governor said it was still alarming because it meant that the tankers that contain the bunker fuel have not been completely sealed and the leak could worsen. *Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

AN ARMY soldier patrols Barangay Tando in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras to look after the paymasters of Petron who hand out cash to fishermen and villagers helping clean up the Petron oil mess in the town.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

LIBEL ONSLAUGHT

Publisher arrested, others face arrest in Cavite

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

A CAVITE PUBLISHER AND HIS children who worked in the publication landed in jail while 9 other staffers or owners of publications in the province face the same fate after a judge issued warrants for their arrests for libel.

In Imus, Cavite, Rudy Apolo, 57, was arrested in his printing press in Barangay Sta. Fe and brought to the Trece Martires City jail.

Apolo was arrested for a libel case filed by Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi.

Judge Norberto Quisumbing Jr., executive judge of Branch 21 of the Imus Regional Trial Court, issued the arrest warrants for Apolo and his children, Reynaldo and Michelle, and Ed Lara Cuvinar, all editorial staff members of the Asian Star Journal and Asian Star Express Balita, two publications that Apolo prints.

The two publications carried stories that Maliksi said portrayed him as a corrupt public official, which he denied vehemently.

Leilani Grimares, Cavite provincial lawyer, said the case was just one of 26 filed by the governor against his critics in the press.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) condemned the arrest.

"Criminal defamation charges have a deeply chilling effect on news reporting, and their use by public officials does great damage to the Philippines' rich tradition of press freedom," said Joel Simon, CPJ executive director.

"We call on the governor to drop his criminal complaint and allow the release of these journalists, who have been jailed in violation of basic press freedom standards," said Simon.

"Finally, my quest for justice against those who dishonored me has started. I'm very pleased with the issuance of the warrant," said Maliksi.

Maliksi was suspended recently for alleged irregularities in the purchase of P7.5 million worth of rice that the governor said were distributed to the poor in the province.

"This is plain harassment," Apolo said as he was being led to jail.

Apolo said that being a regular member of the National Press Club (NPC), his arrest should have been coordinated by the arresting officers with the NPC officials as there was an existing agreement between the Philippine National Police and the media group regarding the arrest of its members.

Grimares said the publications of Apolo were fly-by-night papers that were being run without advertisers and were given for free simply to malign Maliksi.

Quisumbing also issued warrants of arrest for other members of the staff of two more publications in the province—a certain Archie Gadang, who is listed as editor in chief of a tabloid called Katapat and his staffers Leonardo Eduave and Jimmy Saberon; and Tony Tabbad, who is also listed as editor in chief of a tabloid called Peryodiko and two of his staffers.

Bail of P10,000 each was set.

Tabbad said he paid bail at a Quezon City court.

He said he and his staffers have pieces of evidence to prove that the stories they printed about Maliksi's alleged corrupt practices were true.

"Instead of filing libel, the governor should show to the people that he is not tolerating corruption in his administration," Gadang said. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

8 villages in Iloilo town isolated by landslide

By Nestor Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

MIAG-AO, ILOILO—Eight hinterland villages of this town were isolated after a landslide that struck early Wednesday morning blocked the only road leading to the villages.

The landslide coming from a mountain beside the road blocked a 60-meter length of the road in Barangay Cawayanan, Miag-ao Mayor Gerardo Flores told the INQUIRER.

The village is 10 km from the town proper of Miag-ao, which is 42 km south of Iloilo City.

Rains

The landslide occurred at around 6 a.m. of Wednesday after days of continuous rains. There were no reported casualties but a nipa hut was damaged, said Flores.

He said the road would be cleared in three days. Access to four elementary schools in the villages was cut.

The villages can only be reached by foot through an area cleared for access, the mayor said.

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ROUNDUP

1 dies, 24 hurt in fire

TANDAG, Surigao del Sur—One person died while 24 others were injured when a four-hour fire hit a heavily populated residential area in Bislig City at about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday. Provincial police director Senior Supt. Alex Ga said the fatality, a male, about 60 years old, remained unidentified. Ga said the fire razed the 4-hectare area in downtown Bislig, including two wet markets. Social welfare officials said about 2,000 people were rendered homeless by the fire that was put out around 4:30 p.m. Officials placed the fire's damage at P150 million.

Bert Pacate, Inquirer Mindanao

OFW saves 2 kids, drowns

BAGAC, Bataan—An overseas contract worker died while trying to save his two children from drowning on Saturday when their motorized banca capsized in the South China Sea, police said. Antonio Pillagara Jr., 33, was able to save his two children but he suffered cramps and drowned due to strong undercurrent. His two children were thrown to the sea when big waves hit their boat, police said. Pillagara and his family were on their way to attend a sendoff party for a relative who was bound for Saudi Arabia when the accident occurred.

Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon

4 dead as truck falls

COTABATO CITY—Four persons were killed while five others were seriously injured when a truck they were riding plunged into a ravine in Pikit, North Cotabato on Sunday. Survivor Ecel Paalisbo said they were on their way to Cotabato City at about 4 a.m. when one of the truck's front tires exploded and brought the truck out of control.

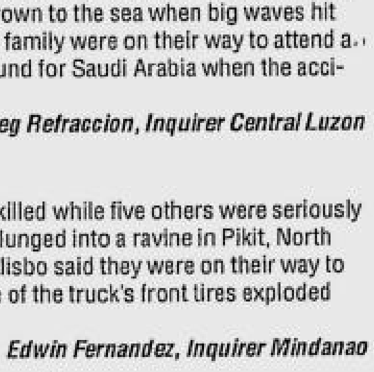
Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

House OKs sports school

NAGA CITY—The House of Representatives passed on third and final reading a bill that will establish a Bicol sports academy in Camarines Sur's capital town of Pili. Under House Bill No. 3377, authored by Camarines Sur Rep. Luis R. Villafuerte, the academy will serve as "the primary sports development and training hub" for athletes and coaches and other sports staffers in the six Bicol provinces. He said the academy will provide Bicolano athletes access to facilities, equipment, qualified staff and other resources for training.

Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

'Cops' ransack Meralco


S'YEMPRE BIGAY KAMI- MAY MGA BARIL SILA ANOH!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Eight unidentified armed men who identified themselves as members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team of the Philippine National Police ransacked the office of the Manila Electric Co. in San Pablo City on Sept. 24. City police chief Supt. Sonny Ricablanca said the suspects, clad in SWAT uniforms, arrived at the Meralco office in Barangay San Ignacio in a vehicle of unidentified make but with license plate XRS-917 at around 2 a.m. Meralco manager Rodolfo Lazo said the suspects took away P400,000 in cash and checks amounting to P40,000. Also taken were the security guards' guns.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

NPA reb yields in Mindoro

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—A ranking member of the New People's Army operating on Mindoro island surrendered to the military on Sept. 24. Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command spokesperson Lt. Col. Rhoderick Parayno identified the rebel as a certain Antenor Corpuz also known by his various aliases Ka Masong, Dupax, Tamil, Sander and Igpao, allegedly the deputy secretary of the NPA's Kilusang Larangang Gerilya-Islacom Mindoro. Parayno said Corpuz's surrender was facilitated by Occidental Mindoro Gov. Josephine Sato and Board Member Peter Alfaro.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

11 'jueteng' men arrested

AHA! JUETENG! HULI KAYO!
ULK! TALO!
E01

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Eleven alleged "jueteng" bet collectors were detained after members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested them during a Sept. 25 raid on a suspected jueteng den in Tanauan City, Batangas. The alleged bet collectors where in the act of drawing the winning combination. CIDG-Calabarzon chief Senior Supt. Mark Edison Belarma said there were more than 50 jueteng workers in the area but most were able to run away when police announced the raid.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Romulo tells Senate DFA to help bring 'Joc-joc' home

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

FOREIGN SECRETARY ALBERTO Romulo yesterday promised the Senate his department would do all it could to bring former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn 'Joc-joc" Bolante back to the country, a pledge some senators took with a grain of salt.

At a hearing on the Department of Foreign Affairs' budget for 2007, Senate finance committee chair Sen. Franklin Drilon asked Romulo what the DFA was doing about Bolante, who is being held in the United States, and whether it would help bring him back to answer questions on the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

"Well, certainly within our legal mandate we would be willing to extend our assistance to the Senate," Romulo said.

'Nothing political'

Romulo also agreed with Drilon that the Senate's issuance of a warrant of arrest for Bolante after he ignored its summons numerous times was "nothing political" because investigating the fertilizer scam was part of the chamber's oversight function.

The fertilizer fund was allegedly diverted to the campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004 and did not go to the farmers for whom it was intended. Bolante was supposedly the "architect" of the diversion.

Romulo confirmed the American Embassy in Manila had revoked Bolante's US visa after the Senate issued the arrest warrant.

"I believe the Senate, in accordance with its mandate, is exercising its oversight function and part of that is to see to it that the gentleman [Bolante] is able to answer (questions about his role)," Romulo said.

When Drilon asked how the DFA could help bring Bolante back, Romulo said: "We will continue to monitor his case and we will report what's happening."

He said the US was treating Bolante's case as a "purely immigration matter."

Just being diplomatic

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon asked if the Philippines could invoke the RP-US Extradition Treaty to get Bolante back. Romulo said he needed to study the matter.

He said any request for extradition should come from the Department of Justice. He said he would write Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez about this.

But to Drilon, Romulo, a former senator, was just being diplomatic.

"It's a diplomatic way of saying 'sorry, we can't help you' because he said they will help within their mandate," Drilon told reporters after the hearing.

Asked if he really expected any help, Drilon said: "I will say alleluia, praise the Lord, if I see [it]."

High power cost probed; price manipulation eyed

From page A1

centered on the soaring prices since the spot market opened in late June.

"There have been no concerted and deliberate efforts to manipulate electricity prices on the part of PSALM's four trading teams," PSALM president Nieves Osorio said in a statement.

Analysts said the probe was likely to further hamper the government's attempts to raise up to $5 billion and cut its debt by selling dozens of plants belonging to state-owned National Power Corp. (Napocor) and leasing the electricity grid. Napocor's debts are equivalent to about a third of the Philippines' gross domestic product.

At the news conference, Holopainen said the PEMC market surveillance committee noted unusual price fluctuations in the spot market and found no reason for the spikes.

At the start of the most recent trading month, the weekly average price in the spot market was at P3.62 per kWh. This jumped to P4.51 the following week, surging to as high as P6.80 per kWh for the week ending Sept. 25.

Focus of probe

Holopainen said PSALM became the focus of the probe because it controlled 50 percent of the total power capacity traded in the market. PSALM trades on behalf of power plants with a total capacity of 6,000 megawatts. Napocor supplies about 20 percent of the power traded.

He said it would take PEMC 45 days to complete its probe, which started on Tuesday when a notice was served on PSALM.

"Whenever there are significant changes in price, whether upward or downward, PEMC will closely monitor the operations of the power spot market, conduct investigations if needed, and penalize responsible parties," he said.

Osorio said PSALM welcomed the investigation but added that "bid prices are influenced by several factors, among them, the cost of producing electricity which varies from plant to plant."

Holopainen said the wholesale electricity spot market traded 10.5 million megawatt hours from June 26 to Sept. 25, representing almost all of the consumption in Luzon.

Participants in the market include 30 power plants and 13 distributors, including Manila Electric Co.

PEMC said it was also considering suspending the wholesale market to preempt high prices in November and December, when three power plants on Luzon will be out of action.

The three natural gas plants, with 2,700 megawatts of capacity, will be closed for maintenance of a pipeline from Nov. 18 to Dec. 12.

4th attempt

Earlier this week, PSALM said three groups had lined up to bid for a 25-year contract to run the P138-billion power grid—the fourth attempt to auction off the network since 2003.

The agency was intended to sell 70 percent of the total rated capacity of 31 Napocor plants by the end of 2004 but so far has sold only six plants or 3 percent of the targeted capacity.

The 24-hour computer-based wholesale market was seen as the key to the sale of the Napocor plants because it was meant to free up the supply of electricity on Luzon, and partly allay investor concerns about the sector's profitability.

Even without the allegations against PSALM, the government's attempts to sell its power assets had met with little success due to lingering concerns over corruption and official meddling in tariffs, as well as political and security uncertainties. *With reports from Reuters*

GMA tells exporters: I won't stop rise of peso

From page A1

become more expensive to foreign buyers and less competitive in international markets.

The peso has risen about 7 percent since late June on the back of upbeat economic news, easing political worries, strong remittance flows, substantial foreign investments and improving government finances.

No intervention

For the first time in four years, the peso on Tuesday pierced the key psychological level of 50 to the dollar and hit a peak of 49.88 against the greenback. The peso yesterday closed at 50.02 to the dollar, hardly unchanged from Wednesday's finish of 50.01 at the Philippine Dealing System.

While the government would not intervene in the foreign currency market, Ms Arroyo said her team of economic advisers led by Trade Secretary Peter Favila would come up with concrete measures to enhance the competitiveness of the export sector in areas like wages, infrastructure and other cost factors.

"They will balance out the situation and maintain a business environment that would spur more jobs and better infrastructure," she said.

TALKING SHOP. President Arroyo and ex-President Fidel Ramos exchange views during the workshop on foreign direct investment at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati on Thursday. The workshop aims to make recommendations on how the country could attract $3-B worth of investments a year. LYN RILLON

Ms Arroyo will host today at the Palace a summit meeting of government officials and business representatives who will draw up measures to promote exports and attract foreign investments.

"The economy is on an extended bull run and we are confident the people can keep the pace going to finally achieve economic takeoff. The positive outlook across various sectors both here and abroad backed up by our improving economic indicators speak well of the things to come," Ms Arroyo said in her speech.

Things do seem to be looking up for the economy.

Inflation eased to its lowest level in 27 months in September at 5.7 percent due mainly to a stronger peso and lower oil prices. *(See story in Business, Page B1.)*

Also on Thursday, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said that government savings of about P17 billion in interest payments could be used to help replace infrastructure ruined by Typhoon "Milenyo," which ripped through Luzon last week and caused more than P3 billion in damage to agriculture and property.

The Philippines, Asia's largest debt issuer after Japan, taps the domestic and overseas debt markets regularly to fund its budget deficit. In turn, interest payments account for about a third of the government's annual budget.

Cut back on borrowing

But the country has cut back on borrowing this year after weaker-than-expected spending and improving tax revenues produced four months of budget surpluses.

Total debt of the national government eased 0.5 percent to P3.998 trillion in June.

The Arroyo administration has passed fiscal reform measures, including a law broadening and raising the value-added tax, in a bid to raise revenue, cut debt and balance the budget by 2008.

Andaya on Wednesday said he would be satisfied with a budget deficit this year of P100-110 billion, about 12 percent below target. *Reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Reuters and AFP*

Subic rape trial ends; verdict set on Nov. 27

From page A1

must render a decision on cases against American soldiers within a year after court proceedings begin, or lose the authority to compel the accused to appear in court.

Panels' summations

Pozon also directed the defense and prosecution panels to submit their respective memoranda "within 30 days of actual receipt of this [court] order."

"This will be hoping that the court can finish the decision by that time. If it cannot, the parties will be informed," he said.

A memorandum is a summation of a panel's arguments for its case, including a rehash of the evidence it presented during the trial.

The prosecution had presented 23 witnesses in 11 weeks to prove that Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith had raped Nicole inside a moving van before midnight on Nov. 1, 2005, as his coaccused—Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier—cheered him on.

The prosecution contended that Nicole, 22 years old at the time, was too drunk to have consented to sex, and that she was later "dumped like a pig" on a pier near the Marines' ship, the USS Essex.

The defense had presented six witnesses, including the four accused, who all testified that Smith and Nicole had consensual sex in the back seat of the van, and that she got off the vehicle on her own.

20 people in court

All four accused said Nicole was not drunk on the night of the purported crime, and that she was fully aware of what was happening.

Only 20 people—reporters, the court staff, Silkwood's lawyers (Jose Justiniano and Carlito Zaragoza) and Carpentier's lawyer (Francisco Rodrigo)—were present yesterday at the usually packed courtroom.

The hearing had adjourned when Smith's lawyer (Benjamin Formoso) arrived.

The public prosecutors—whom Nicole had wanted replaced toward the end of the trial for purported incompetence—were not around.

Minutes before the hearing started, the court received the prosecutors' faxed manifestation officially informing the court that they would no longer present rebuttal witnesses, as they had planned.

The court had scheduled hearings yesterday and today for the prosecution panel to recall to the witness stand agents Tony Ramos and Guy Papageorge of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

Pozon canceled both hearings in open court yesterday.

Misquote, discrepancies

The state prosecutors had earlier told the court that they would recall Ramos and Papageorge to allow the agents to rebut the testimonies of Smith and Carpentier.

Smith had said he was "misquoted" in an NCIS report on the alleged rape, and Carpentier had pointed out "minor discrepancies" in Papageorge's report on his own statement.

Without saying why, the prosecutors said they had "decided to forego with the presentation of rebuttal evidence."

But Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos had said in an earlier interview that the prosecution had already shown in court that the agents had "no reason to distort their report because their functions were purely fact-finding."

Some Forbes Park folk may be squatters

From page A1

some residents of the very high-end Forbes Park and Dasmariñas Village in Makati City had encroached on their property.

DMCI Homes, which is putting up 1,700 condominium units at Bonifacio Heights, reported the alleged encroachment to the Philippine Army, which in turn asked for help from the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) to settle the issue.

Barangay Forbes Park Chair Jose Concepcion reportedly identified 12 lot owners along Tamarind Road in Forbes Park, but the HUDCC did not name them in its press release.

In the release yesterday, the HUDCC said it was "poised" to demolish the "illegal" structures of the Forbes Park and Dasmariñas residents.

Structures along creek

HUDCC Vice Chair Amado Bagatsing described these structures as fences, gardens and shelters for the house help and drivers that were put up along an open creek between Forbes Park and Dasmariñas villages.

No date for demolition

The structures were built before the construction of the P1.7-billion Bonifacio Heights began.

However, a check with the HUDCC showed there had been no "official discussions" yet on a demolition since the encroachment still had to be validated by a third party, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The news release did not set a date for the demolition.

HUDCC oversees the 7-hectare military housing project, with Bagatsing as the chair of the management team.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino had sought Bagatsing's help in settling the boundary issue at the Bonifacio Heights.

Joint survey

Army spokesperson Maj. Ernesto Torres said Tolentino made the request to protect the interest of the soldiers who would be the recipients of the condominium units.

The HUDCC proposed to Concepcion a joint survey of the project site, together with representatives from the AFP and the developer.

The news release said Bagatsing had requested from Concepcion the names and addresses of the lot owners whose structures were encroaching on the Bonifacio Heights project.

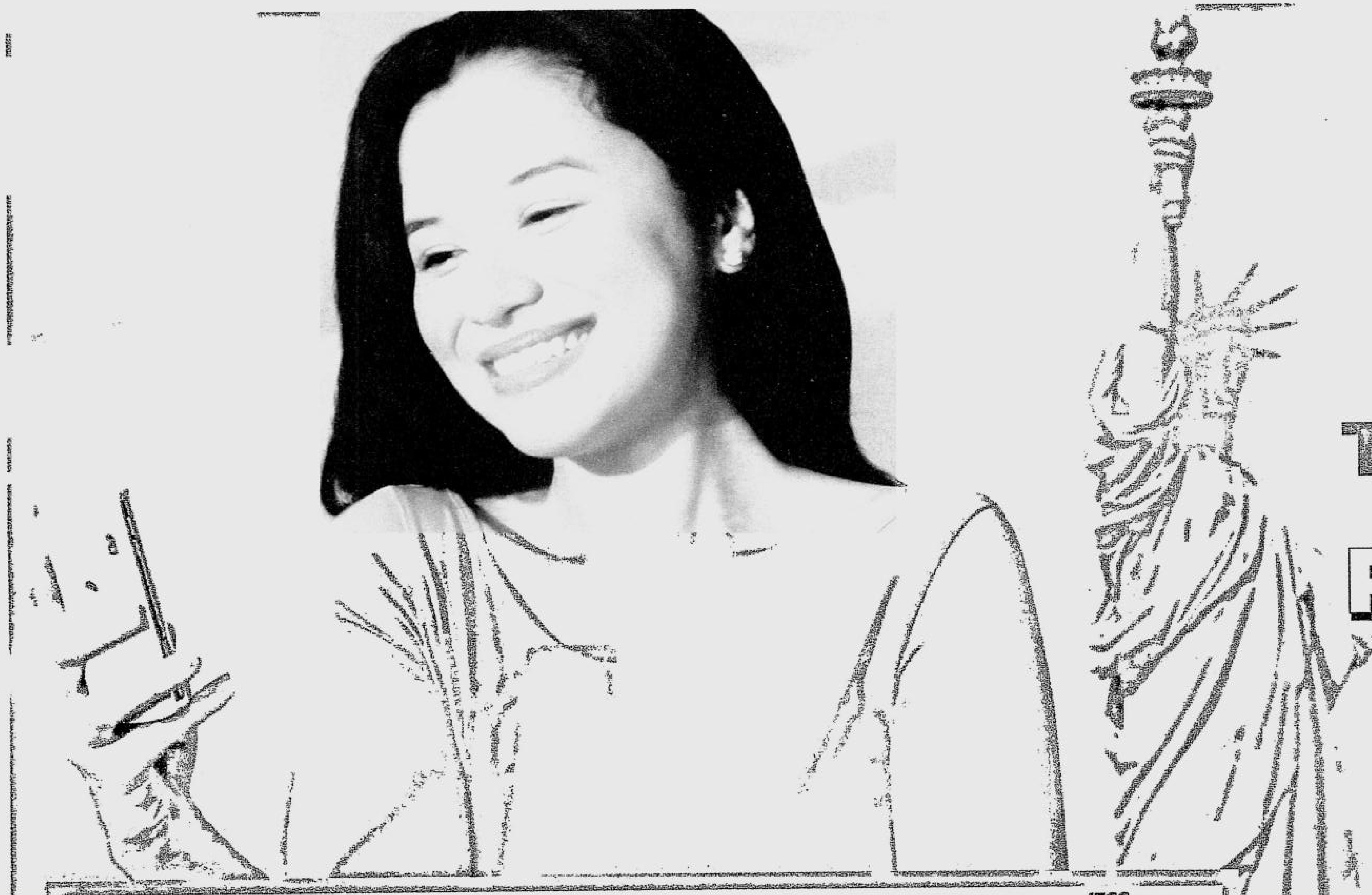
Half a hectare

Bagatsing also furnished Concepcion a copy of the site development plan and a map of the encroachment to help him establish the identities of the owners of the properties.

According to HUDCC, these lots intruded three to five meters into the Bonifacio Heights property.

According to Bagatsing, these structures combined encroached on about half a hectare of the housing project.

Ten of the planned 17 condominium buildings have been constructed. The project is scheduled to be completed by December 2007, ahead of its 2008 deadline.



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Temporary billboard ban

DPWH official eyes 2-month moratorium

By Leila B. Salaverria

A PUBLIC WORKS OFFICIAL YESTERDAY said he would push for a two-month moratorium on billboards in Metro Manila until the government determines which of the existing structures need to be dismantled.

Emmanuel Cuntapay—director of the Department of Public Works and Highways' National Building Code Development Office—said he would propose to officials that no billboard be put up or relocated until the DPWH has completed checking the structural integrity of all outdoor advertisements in the metropolis.

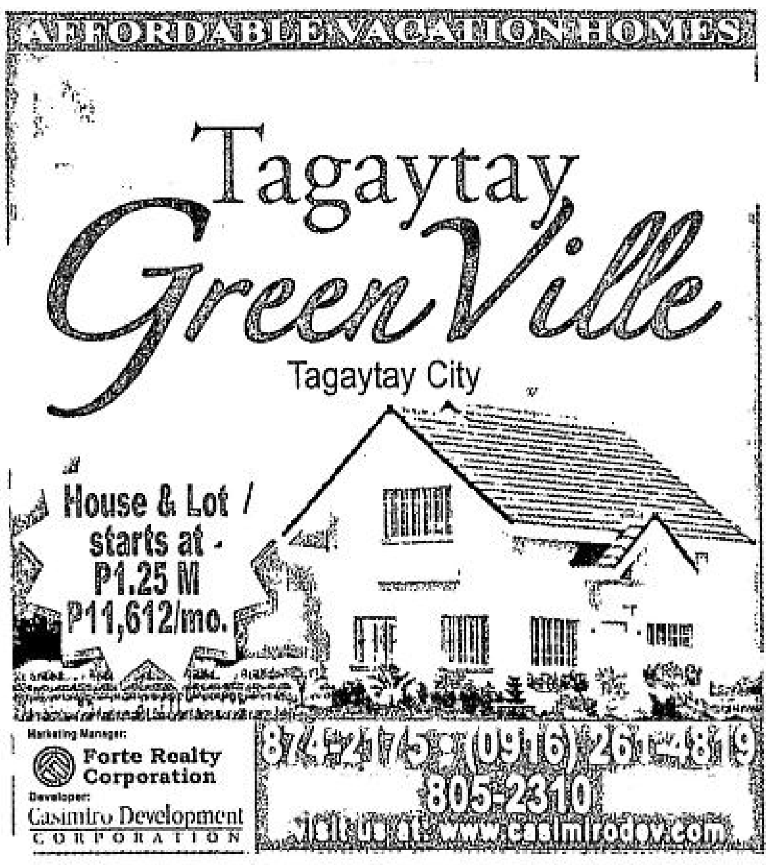
"We intend to issue a moratorium order … to be signed by the secretary. No sign permit and other certificates should be issued until we have completed our assessment in Metro Manila," Cuntapay said.

At the same time, he asked building officials to conduct an inventory of all billboard structures, including those not covered by permits, and to submit a report on their findings to the DPWH within five days.

The DPWH met with local building officials yesterday to discuss the implications of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Administrative Order 160 directing the department to assess the integrity of billboards and dismantle those found to be unsafe.

Calls for the removal of billboards in the metropolis mounted when several of these collapsed last week at the height of Typhoon "Milenyo," leaving a person dead, several others injured and millions of pesos worth of damage to property.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., meanwhile, said the removal of hazardous advertising structures would start as soon as possible.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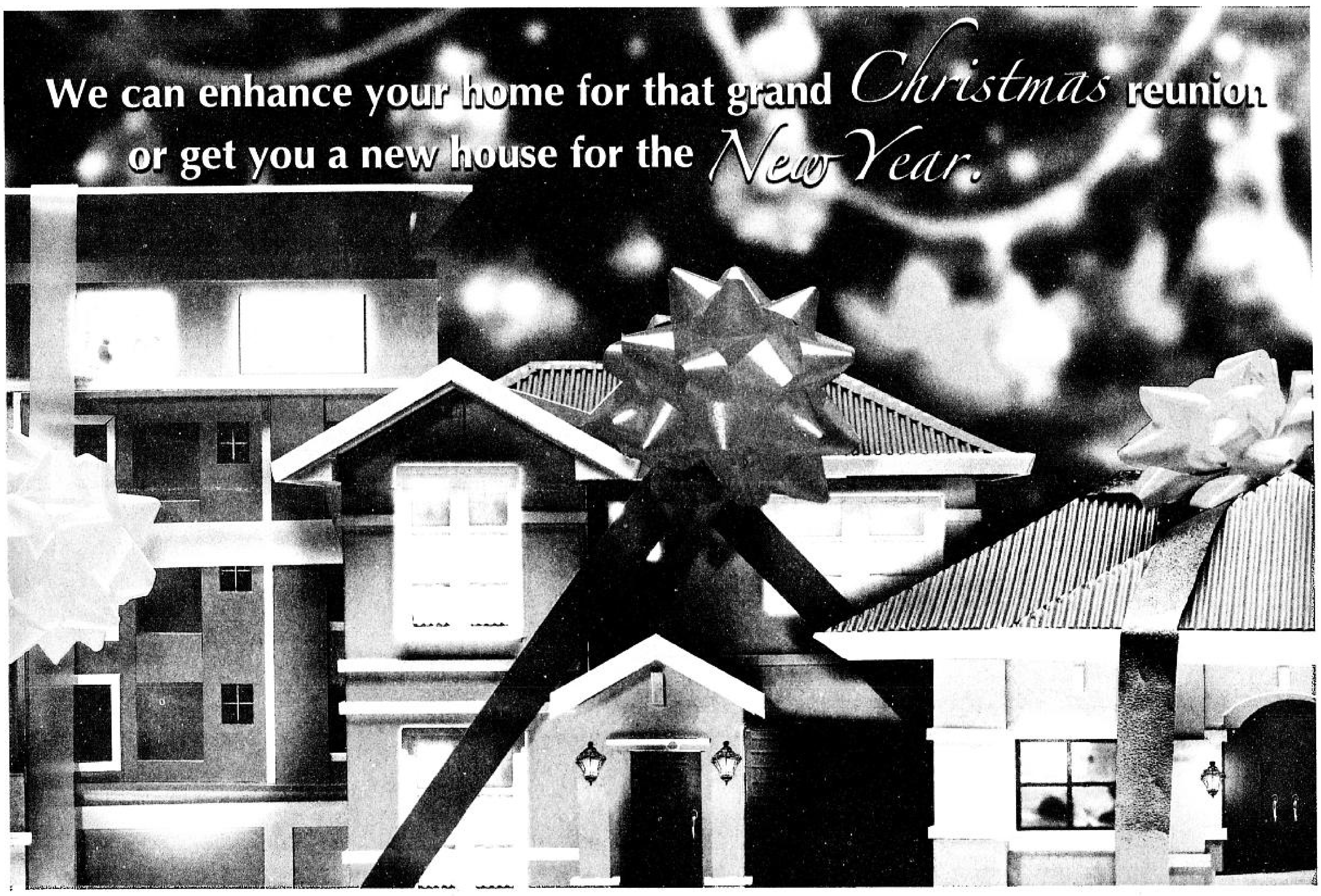
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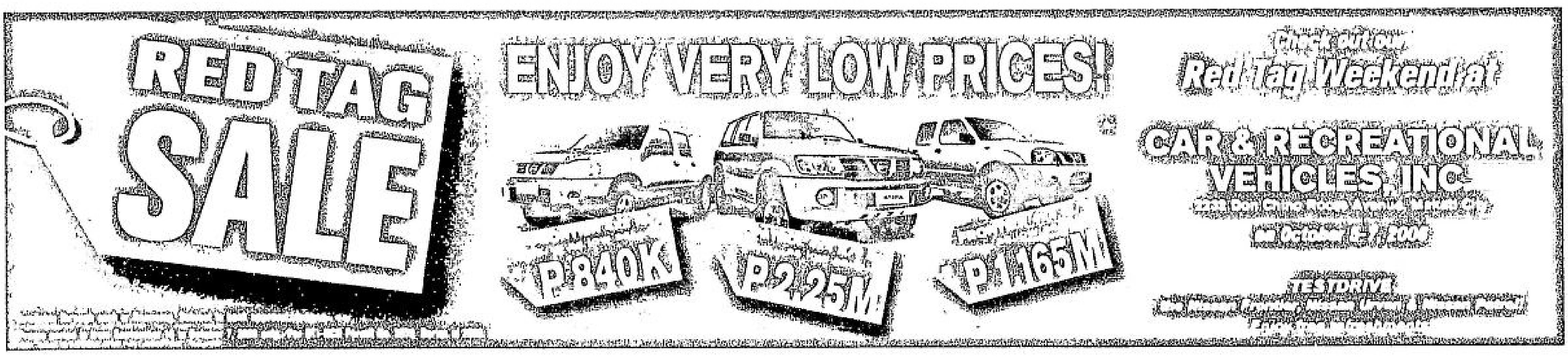
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MANTRADE DEVT. CORPORATION (632) 843-3316 to 23 / 843-8011
NISSAN COMMONWEALTH, INC. (632) 932-4001 / 932-0428
NISSAN WESTGATE ALABANG (632) 772-1826 to 30 / 775-0239

3 suspects in Caloocan killings charged

By Nancy C. Carvajal

POLICE HAVE FILED CHARGES AGAINST A Valenzuela City barangay captain and two men accused of killing six factory workers in Caloocan City last Sunday.

Barangay Bignay chair Graciano Victoriano, barangay operations officer Santiago Lumabao and Ricky Flor were charged with multiple murder at the office of Caloocan City Assistant Prosecutor Ferdinand Valbuena, according to Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Northern Police District director.

He added that they were looking for another suspect, a certain Pandong Vergara, after one of the accused also linked him to the killings.

Bataoil said the six victims, workers of a factory in Bulacan, were shot dead because of their boisterous behavior inside a tricycle terminal in Valenzuela on Saturday night.

"Their killing was unthinkable because they were reported to be just unruly," Bataoil told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said the factory workers, who had just come from a drinking session, were allegedly picked up before midnight on Saturday by several men on board vehicles after a tricycle driver complained of their loud voices.

Their bodies were found on Sunday morning by construction workers on a road inside the Nova Romania Subdivision at Deparo, Caloocan City.

Bataoil said the suspects were arrested after Lumabao confessed and linked Victoriano and Flor to the incident.

The three were also implicated by other witnesses, including a security guard of the subdivision.

According to Lumabao, it was Victoriano who ordered them to bring the victims to the subdivision.

It was also the barangay chair who shot the victims using an M-16 rifle, he told the police.

Based on earlier reports, at least 26 empty shells from an M-16 and five shells from a 9mm pistol were recovered at the crime scene.

Bataoil said they were still trying to trace the ownership of the guns.

PASAY City Vice Mayor Antonino Calixto talks to a policeman at City Hall after he finds his old office on the fourth floor locked. EDWIN BACASMAS

Returning Pasay exec vows to sue detractors

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PASAY VICE MAYOR ANTONINO Calixto yesterday said he would file contempt charges against those trying to prevent him from returning to his post.

Calixto, with five bodyguards in tow, went to City Hall in the morning to take back his office on the fourth floor after the Court of Appeals the other day granted his petition for a temporary restraining order.

The CA decision effectively stopped for 60 days the enforcement of an order from the Office of the Ombudsman suspending the vice mayor for six months.

Calixto, however, found the door to his office locked. "I will file contempt charges against those people who are preventing me from serving our residents. I am here not as an acting mayor. I am just upholding the CA's order restoring me as vice mayor," he told reporters.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Calixto said he has asked his lawyer, Phil Ramos, to prepare charges against his "detractors."

When asked if he was referring to acting Mayor Allan Panaligan and acting Vice Mayor Arvin Tolentino, Calixto answered, "We are investigating who ordered my office locked. The CA has restored me as vice mayor, why would they still lock it up?"

Taguig environmental cops go after litterbugs, smokers

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MORE THAN A HUNDRED MEN IN green vests, a blue pair of shorts and yellow shirts would soon be going around Taguig City on bicycles to keep a watchful eye on litterbugs and smokers.

They are members of the Taguig Environmental Police, a permanent action unit formed through an ordinance to implement environmental laws and the city's regulations on proper waste disposal and the "No Smoking Law."

In a phone interview, Ronald Cruz, chief of the Solid Waste Management Office, said the 120 environmental police underwent training prior to their deployment in the city's 18 barangays.

They are authorized to issue Environment Citation Tickets and arrest violators of Taguig's solid waste management and smoking ordinances.

"It is important that we instill discipline in everyone as we strive to protect our environment not only for ourselves but for the generations to come," Mayor Freddie Tinga said in a statement.

METROBRIEFS

In critical condition

A MEMBER of the all-male dance group, Abstract Dancers, was in critical condition after he was shot in the head by two men Wednesday night in Tondo, Manila. Salvador Jana, 24, of Beltran Street, Balut, Tondo remained under observation at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, police said. Investigation showed that the victim was walking near the corner of Nava and Pinoy Streets at around 10 p.m. when he was attacked by two men identified as Ramil Langa and a certain Bitong. The two immediately fled after the shooting.

Tina G. Santos

No tax hike

QUEZON City has no plans of raising business and real estate taxes anytime soon, according to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. He gave the assurance during a recent ceremony honoring the city's top corporate taxpayers for 2005 at the Crown Plaza Galleria on Ortigas Avenue. The local government will "continue running the city the best we can, and without raising taxes," he said. "Instead of raising taxes, we will just expand the city's tax base," Belmonte told the businessmen. SM Group of Companies, with its holding company SM Mega Holdings Inc., led the list of awardees, having topped both the business and real property categories for the past five years. As of Sept. 18, the city has collected P2.27 billion in business taxes, up by P117.3 million from the year before.

DJ Yap

No water in QC, Manila

SOME areas in Quezon City and Manila will be without water this weekend. From 9 p.m. Saturday until 6 a.m. Sunday, the following areas in Quezon City will have no water: Barangay Manresa, San Jose, St. Peter Street, Maharlika, N.S. Amoranto, Paang Bundok and Siena. Areas that will experience low water pressure, on the other hand, include Barangays Salvacion, Lourdes, Sto. Domingo, San Isidro Labrador, Sta. Teresita and Doña Josefa. In Manila, Juan Luna St. corner C.M. Recto Ave. up to Estero del Binondo will have no water from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday. Affected customers may call the Maynilad Water hotline 1626 or 4362000 for the water rationing schedule.

DID YOU KNOW

OF THE NEARLY 10 million residents in Metro Manila, more than six million (65.2 percent) are economically active. Members of this group, whose ages range from 15 to 64, have to work to provide for over three million dependents below 14 years of age and nearly 300,000 dependents aged 65 and above.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Republic of the Philippines
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and
DBP Data Center, Inc.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Insurance Commission (INSCOM) and DBP Data Center, Inc. (DCI) is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply, delivery of Information and Communication Technology Equipment, Software and Services:

Lots	Description	Budget 12% VAT Inclusive
A, B and C	Supply, Delivery, installation and configuration of Hybrid Local Area Network, ICT Equipment and Materials for the Network Operations Center, Information Technology Office and IT Secure Conference Center	Php 30,000,000.00

Schedule of Activities

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents	October 11- 16, 2006
Pre-Bidding Conference at Insurance Commission, 1071 Inscom Building, United Nations Avenue, Manila	October 16 at 9:30 a.m.
Submission and Opening of Eligibility, Technical and Financial Envelopes at Insurance Commission	October 30, 2006 at 9:30 a.m

Interested suppliers may request detailed project description and budget per lot from the BAC Secretariat, **Ms. Rosalyn Tañagras** (Phone No. 848-0277) starting on October 11, 2006.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Requirements/Check, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its amended Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A).

The Insurance Commission and DBP Data Center, Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Insurance Commission.

(Sgd.) PAMELA F. PITAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 6 & 13, 2006)

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

ABC
Iba Tayo
finals na!
SABADO 9PM
LINGGO 9PM
Philippine Idol

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				PBA				Big News	PBA				Philippine Idol	Sentro	Real Stories		Letty La Mas Fea [illegible]	
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate! Japan	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		Legends of the Fall					Ultimate Guinness World Records	Beastmaster		Maximum Exposure (Season 1)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	Bad Boys II					Trapped
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends/Max Steel	Robotboy	Sayonara Samurai Jack/ Mirmo De Pon	Pokemon/ Pokemon Johto Journey	Duel Justisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Dear Mama				Bituing Walang Ningning (Movie)				Dito Sa Puso Ko				Tapang Sa Tapang				Six	
Cinemax			Kiss And Tell (3:40 PM)				The Making Of [illegible] 2	Rage Of Honor				The Chronicles Of Riddick					One False Move (10:35PM)		
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		The Grid/ The Closer		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Prison Break	
Discovery Channel	Connect	Engineering Series		Risk Takers		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate	Beyond Tomorrow		Rides		American Chopper		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate			Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-Talkative Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Emperor's New School	America's Funniest Home Video	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Cheerleading		ESPN Great Outdoor Games				Major League Baseball Division Series						Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing		Classic Boxing		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Veronica Mars Season 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Everwood Season 2		American Dreams 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life in Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas in Today's World	Fr John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Just Cause		Midsomer Murders: A Worm In The Bud				Regenesis	
HBO	Dark Avenger			Faith Of My Fathers: The John McCain Story			Private Benjamin				The Crew			The Forgotten			Batman & Robin		
Hero TV	Combattler V	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	B-Daman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Raijin-Oh	Combattler V	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arms		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arms	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Karera Sports TV	
JackTV		Back Track				Sweat	X-Play	Heat		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Everybody Hates Chris	Family Guy	American Dad	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Primetime Glick	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY Jewelry Making	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		My Crazy Life	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		MTV Hits	VH1 Fabulous Life of The Cast of Friends	VH1 Fabulous Life of Desperate Housewives	Boiling Points	My Own	MTV Hits			Get Spotted	MTV Hits	MTV Cribs		Boiling Points	My Own	MTV News	Rockola	VH1 Fabulous Life of Leo & Gisele	VH1 Fabulous Life of J Lo & Marc
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXlog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Extraterrestrial		Extraterrestrial		Marco Polo: China Mystery	Rediscovering The Map	Voyage of Dragonic Kings		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Bin Laden's Spy			
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alap			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya	Teledyaryo [illegible]		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nangi-[illegible] Daan		Ang Pagbubunyag		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Ang Mga Nangi-[illegible] Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold/As Told By Ginger	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power/ Asian Anime Fest: Avatar: The Legend Of Aang/ Kappa Mikey	Four Eyes	SpongeBob [illegible] Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up/ Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo/ SpongeBob Squarepants	Naturally Sadie/ The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants/ All That	As Told By Ginger/ Romeo	The Fairly Odd Parents/ As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Gabriela				Hahabol-Habol				Alabang Girls				Utang Ni Tatang				Mega Con-[illegible]
Qtv	Starry Starry Night	Shaman King	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle		Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kepaad Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	NCIS		CSI: Miami		Without A Trace		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherds Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports	Golf Today	Bikini Destination	Exotic Extreme	World's Greatest Auto Show		Raceworld		Billiards: WC Pool		Sagupaan	Gillette World Sport	Nopi Tunervision		Raceworld		Sportsdesk		ECW	
Star Movies			Sleeping With The Enemy				The Clearing			A Lot Like Love (7:10 PM)				The Arrangement			Flawless (10:35PM)		
Star World	Two And A Half Men	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling						Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23								Superman The Animated Series	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Nginiig	Ghost Whisperer (8:15PM)		Living With Fran (9:15PM)	Will & Grace	News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		MYXlog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

N. Korea's nuke test plan no bluff, report says

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—A newspaper that publishes North Korean propaganda warned Thursday that the communist nation's plan to test a nuclear weapon is not a bluff, as its leader Kim Jong Il reportedly dropped from public view.

Condemnation of Pyongyang's announced plans to detonate a nuclear device reached a fever pitch with Japan, China, Russia and South Korea urging restraint and the United States warning that it would not tolerate a nuclear North Korea.

South Korea's Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported that Kim had not been seen in public for 20 days, and noted that the enigmatic leader has similarly remained aloof ahead of other provocative acts by his government, such as the test-launching of ballistic missiles.

While Japan and South Korea have said there are no signs of an imminent nuclear test, a US intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States is now seeing the movement of people and materials at one possible test site.

The assessment was tempered by the fact that similar activity was seen a couple months ago, when no test occurred. The official also noted that observers don't have a baseline for comparison, because North Korea has never performed a nuclear test.

A pro-North Korean newspaper based in Japan reported that plans for a test are not empty threats, but it indicated there is still room for talks to head off a crisis.

"The nuclear test statement was announced on the premise of action," the Choson Sinbo reported out of the North Korean capital. "Carrying out a nuclear test is an inevitable conclusion ... under a condition where (the country) declared possession of nuclear weapons in February last year."

The paper, run by an association of North Korean residents in Japan, is not part of North Korea's official media, but is considered one of the country's propaganda tools and its articles are believed to reflect the country's position.

It hedged the warning, however, by saying the crisis can be overcome if the US begins to take action toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula with "the same goal" of North Korea.

It did not specify whether negotiations could forstall a nuclear test or specify what crisis it was referring to. But North Korea said in Tuesday's threat that it has the goal of mending "hostile relations" with the US and eventually establishing a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

Overnight, Japan pressed the UN Security Council to adopt a statement urging the North to cancel the test and return immediately to six-nation talks aimed at persuading the North to abandon its nuclear ambitions for economic aid.

US Ambassador John Bolton told reporters that members were divided on how to respond to the North. But the United States also warned the North not to go ahead.

"We are not going to live with a nuclear North Korea," Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said Wednesday.

Hill, the chief envoy to disarmament talks, said the United States has passed a message of "deep concern" through diplomatic channels at the United Nations but has yet to hear back from North Korea.

On Tuesday, North Korea rattled the world by announcing it would conduct an unprecedented nuclear test in a step toward building the atomic war chest it views as a necessary deterrent against any US attack.

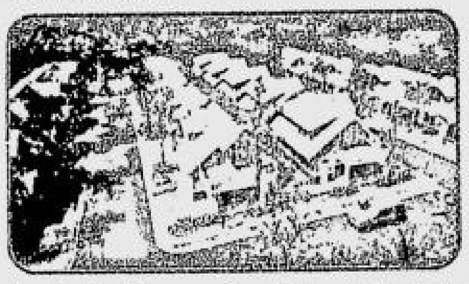
Looming on the horizon are possible dates that North Korea may want to commemorate with such a test, including Sunday's ninth anniversary of Kim's becoming secretary-general of the country's Workers Party of Korea, and the 61st anniversary of the party's founding two days later.

North Korea often times actions with special dates to maximize propaganda impact, as it did by launching a series of missile tests, including a long-range model believed capable of striking the United States, on July 4, America's Independence Day. *AP*

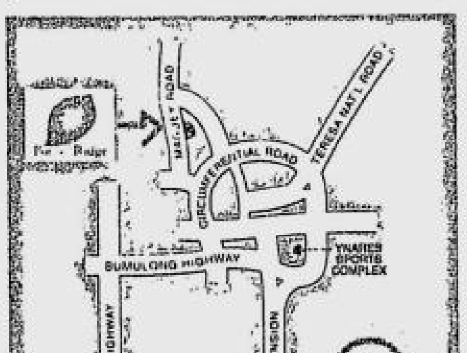
KIM: Out of sight. AFP

FOREST RIDGE'S FORMULA FOR STRESS-FREE LIVING.

Although living in the city is a never-ending thrill, the health benefits of living in a less congested place are countless – and the lifestyle does not differ much from that of the city. In fact, many are unaware of the numerous commercialized, yet, peaceful residential areas around the archipelago. Take for instance the divine place of San Isidro, Antipolo City. A highly accessible city surrounded by commercial centers, hospitals, institutional facilities, fast food chains, and resorts, this modern place of friendly people is one of the best substitutes for the bustling city life that most Filipinos usually look for.

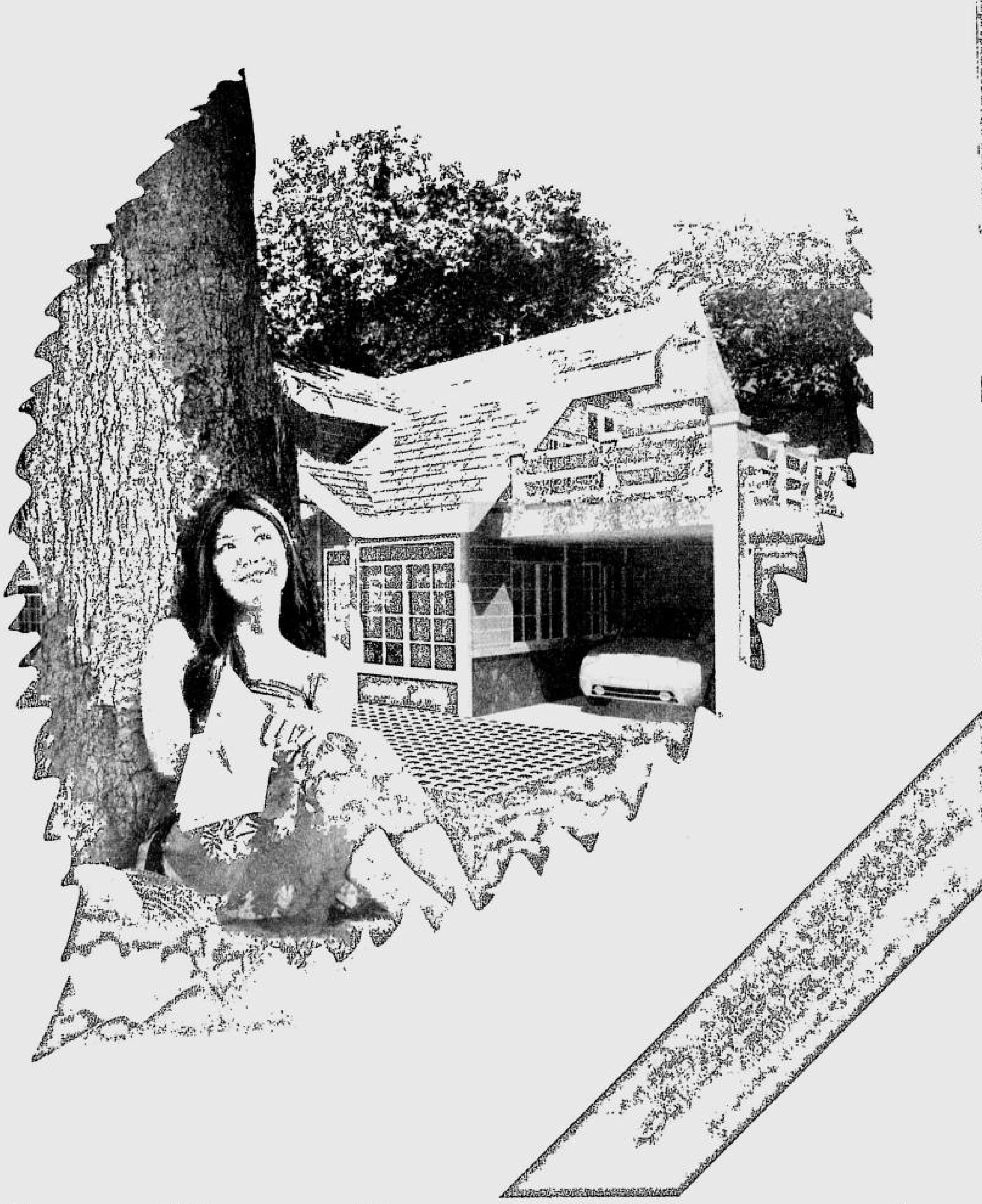


Resting in Barangay San Isidro, Antipolo is a serene sanctuary surrounded by a distinct country-style ambiance filled with nature and style – Forest Ridge. Situated away from the smog, pollution, and congestion of the city, Forest Ridge is enveloped by unpolluted, fresh air perfect for maintaining the good respiratory health of its residents. Premier institutions and establishments such as Assumption School, La Salle, Rustans ShopWise market, the famous Shrine of Our Lady of Good Voyage, and the well-visited Ynares Center confine this serene and pure area. Forest Ridge gardens inherent beauty and adoring sounds of nature, developing tropicalized American homes with interiors designed to suit the needs of families who desire an undisturbed environment. A scenic view defining the uniqueness and beauty of this dwelling place, Forest Ridge is truly a harbor for families who yearn for a good and healthy life, away from the city's stressful daily routine.



Where living is a breeze and life is serene, where nature gives me a place to nestle.

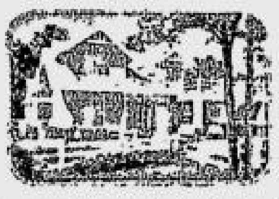
I am home.



ASPEN

INTERIOR

BIRCH



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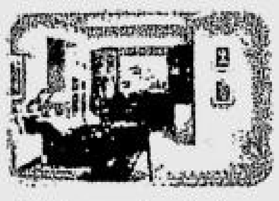

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UNDATED photo of Iraq's al-Qaida leader Abu Ayyub al-Masri. REUTERS

Al-Qaida's new Iraq chief killed

DUBAI—AL-ARABIYA TELEVISION REPORTed Thursday that the new chief of the al-Qaida network in Iraq, known as Abu Ayyub al-Masri or Abu Hamza al-Muhajer, has been killed.

There was no immediate confirmation.

An Iraqi government official had said on Sunday that Masri's "days are numbered" after showing the first video images of the wanted man, who replaced slain former leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

On Friday the al-Qaida leader had also broadcast an Internet audio message threatening a renewed offensive and a campaign to kidnap foreigners.

Masri's identity was first revealed by the US military in July, after the June killing of his predecessor and al-Qaida in Iraq founder Zarqawi, a Jordanian-born Sunni Muslim extremist.

Masri was described as an Egyptian émigré with an extensive knowledge of explosives. The footage showed a bespectacled man with an Egyptian accent explaining how to a rig a car with bombs.

"I can say we are very close to Abu Ayyub al-Masri and we say to him your days are numbered," Iraqi National Security Advisor Muwaffaq al-Rubaie told a news conference.

"Either your dead body or manacled hands will be brought before justice." Rubaie had said the purpose of showing the video was to speed his capture and show Iraqis the "foreign" face of violence in the country. *AFP*

Iraq bombings hit new high

BAGHDAD—BOMB ATTACKS IN BAGHDAD HAVE HIT AN all-time high, the US military said on Wednesday, as one of the capital's frontline police units was pulled off the streets on suspicion of involvement with sectarian death squads.

Thousands of police face criminal vetting and lie detectors as part of a "retraining" process designed to weed out militia killers who have used the cover of their uniforms to kidnap, torture and commit mass murder, US officials have said.

The overnight orders to move the 8th National Police Brigade into barracks and arrest one of its commanders came a day after Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki unveiled a sketchy deal with Sunni leaders and fellow Shiites to try to stem violence. But there was still no sign of further talks to provide substance.

US military spokesperson Major General William Caldwell said the number of car bombs in Baghdad, both detonated and defused, hit their highest level of the year last week and that bombs reported in general were "also at an all-time high."

US and Iraqi forces have mounted a major military operation in the past two months against militants in Baghdad.

For the second time in two days, four US soldiers were killed in a single incident around Baghdad, this time in what appears to have been a substantial skirmish involving mortars or rockets and gunfire to the northwest. It took the death toll in four days of the month to 15 around Baghdad and 22 in total.

Caldwell described it as a "hard week" for US forces, who typically suffer two to three deaths a day on average in Iraq.

Fourteen people were killed and 75 wounded when a car bomb struck a government motorcade in Baghdad. Police said the industry minister, a Kurd, was in the motorcade but aides said no senior officials were in the convoy.

The blast in the Christian Karrada commercial area damaged buildings and left blood and mangled cars in the street.

Under pressure before congressional elections next month from voters keen for an exit strategy from Iraq, US President George W. Bush has made the training of Iraqi security forces the focus of hopes to start withdrawing 140,000 US troops.

The same sectarian divisions driving hundreds of killings a week in the capital are also present among the 300,000 Iraqi soldiers and especially the police, US officials say.

"There is clear evidence that there was some complicity in allowing death squad elements to move freely," Caldwell said of the decision to stand down the 8th Brigade—some 700 to 800 men—after US officers reviewed all 27 brigades last month.

"The determination was made that removing them from Baghdad will be in fact enhancing the overall security," he said. *Reuters*

Books on Bush war efforts harsh on Rice

RICE, left, looks on as President Bush holds a news conference Aug. 7. AP

WASHINGTON—A RUN OF TELL-ALL books on US President George W. Bush's handling of Iraq and the war on terror has cast a harsh light on one of the administration's biggest stars—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The books, including this week's "State of Denial" by veteran Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward, place Rice alongside Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld at the center of a host of strategic miscalculations, bureaucratic backstabbing and dodgy spin-doctoring.

Rice, 51, served as Bush's National Security Adviser from 2001 to 2005 before taking over as America's top diplomat, and has regularly featured among the most popular Republicans in public opinion polls.

A survey last month by the Pew Research Center put Rice on par with Senator John McCain and former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani as preferred Republicans to replace Bush in 2008, even though she has repeatedly ruled out a run for the presidency.

An accomplished pianist, Rice has been dubbed by many the Diva of US diplomacy for her perceived role as a moderating influence amongst heavyweight administration hardliners like Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney.

Her background as a respected academic, a spartan lifestyle and deeply held Christian beliefs contributed to her image as a dedicated public servant above the political fray.

But the spate of revelations in Woodward's book and other accounts of the administration's handling of Iraq and its actions before and after the Sept. 11, 2001, al-Qaida attacks on New York and Washington has the diplomat looking more Darth Vader than Diva.

Accounts in "State of Denial" and another recent book, "The One Percent Doctrine" by journalist Ron Suskind, portray the then-National Security Adviser as actively involved in some of the administration's most controversial policy decisions.

These included exaggerating the threat of weapons of mass destruction held by Saddam Hussein prior to the March 2003 invasion of Iraq and then foisting the blame on others when no such arms were found.

One passage in Woodward's book tells how Rice publicly blamed the CIA for allowing Bush to make a false claim in his January 2003 State of the Union speech that Saddam had tried to obtain uranium from the West African state of Niger.

Then CIA-chief George Tenet, who had told the White House months before that the Niger link was dubious and successfully lobbied to keep the claim out of an earlier Bush speech, was furious, telling a colleague that "Condi shoved it right up my (expletive)," according to Woodward.

Tenet and Rice, Woodward says, had agreed 48 hours earlier to issue a joint statement sharing blame for the Bush misstatement. "Now Rice had dropped a dime on him, blaming only the CIA," he wrote.

After her appointment as secretary of state in January 2005, Rice is shown as fully engaged in an administration campaign to quash or ignore warnings from US commanders in Iraq that the war effort was going horribly wrong.

Amid widening calls for a withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, Rice joined Bush in repeatedly arguing that the administration's bid to bring democracy to Iraq was succeeding and represented an integral part of the war on terrorism.

That view was contradicted by a national intelligence assessment leaked last month which said the war in Iraq was in fact fueling terrorism and radicalism worldwide.

Potentially most damaging for Rice is a claim in Woodward's book that she "brushed off" an urgent warning from Tenet on July 10, 2001, that al-Qaida was plotting a major attack on the United States, just two months before the Sept. 11 assaults.

Rice angrily denied the account on Monday, saying she could not recall the meeting but that it was "incomprehensible" to think she would ignore such a warning if it had been given.

Twenty-four hours later her spokesperson, Sean McCormack, confirmed the July 10 encounter took place.

But he said "the information presented in this meeting was not new, rather it was a good summary of the threat reporting from the previous several weeks." Other officials have also weighed in to support Rice's denial she had shrugged off Tenet's warning. *AFP*

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A WOMAN leaves a ballot booth during local elections in Tbilisi Oct. 5. Georgia President Mikhail Saakashvili faces a popularity test in local elections on Thursday after leading the nation into the most serious confrontation in a decade with giant neighbor Russia. REUTERS

Russia-Georgia row worsens

MOSCOW—DIPLOMATIC TENSIONS BEtween Russia and Georgia worsened significantly Tuesday as Russian officials vowed to impose indefinite economic sanctions on their southern neighbor.

The Russian foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, said the suspension of transportation links and postal service—announced Monday and effective early Tuesday—were intended to cut what he described as illegal transfers of cash from the sizable Georgian diaspora in Russia, which he said were being used to finance Georgia's military buildup.

He said the sanctions would go into force despite the release Monday of four Russian military officers, whose arrests by Georgia last week on charges of espionage sparked a new round of furious accusations between the two countries.

Russia's lower house of Parliament announced it was drafting a bill that would bar all money transfers to Georgia, estimated to make up a significant part of Georgia's economy.

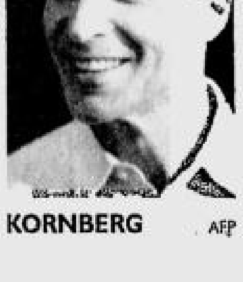
Lavrov said Georgia was seeking to expand its military in preparation for seizing control of two breakaway regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which receive significant support from Russia. *NYT*

American wins Nobel-chem

WASHINGTON—FOLLOWING A kind of family tradition, Dr. Roger D. Kornberg of Stanford University School of Medicine won this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry on Wednesday for showing how genes convey their messages in cells to copy functions like making proteins.

The Nobel Prize committee cited Kornberg, 59, for visually showing how information encoded in a cell's DNA blueprint is read and duplicated into what is called messenger RNA. This messenger RNA, in turn, takes the information out of the nucleus to outer areas of the cell where it is used to construct proteins that control cell functions.

Kornberg, who said he was "simply stunned" by the award, is the son of Dr. Arthur Kornberg, who shared the Nobel in medicine in 1959 for his work in DNA information transfer. The Kornbergs are the sixth father and son to win Nobel Prizes. *NYT*



KORNBERG AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

Mets scuttle Dodgers; A's take 2-0 lead/A25

SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Realtors, Express get going; Bulls, Beermen collide

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs. Air21
7:20 p.m.—Red Bull vs. San Miguel Beer

STA. LUCIA HAS ALWAYS had a complete team, one that has always looked ready to contend and win each game anytime.

So when the Realtors bagged Kelly Williams in the Rookie Draft and team governor Buddy Encarnado announced that "now we have a team," everyone was left wondering what exactly is it that the 6-foot-5 Filipino-American could bring to this perennially formidable yet underachieving squad.

Williams joined a team that has won just one title in its 13-year PBA existence, and which failed to make it past the wild-card phase of the Philippine Cup last year despite three marquee names earning the league's maximum pay.

Today, the Realtors collide with the Air21 Express at 4:35 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum with first overall pick Williams now given a chance to show if he is truly the one who could turn the team's fortunes around.

Marlou Aquino, Dennis Espino and Kenneth Duremdes will still be the stars of the team until Williams, as officials hope, eventually takes over a couple of years down the road to serve as the Realtors' cornerstone.

Sta. Lucia passed up versatile big man Arwind Santos in favor of Williams and, interestingly, the former Far Eastern University ace gets a chance to prove his worth right away in leading the Express.

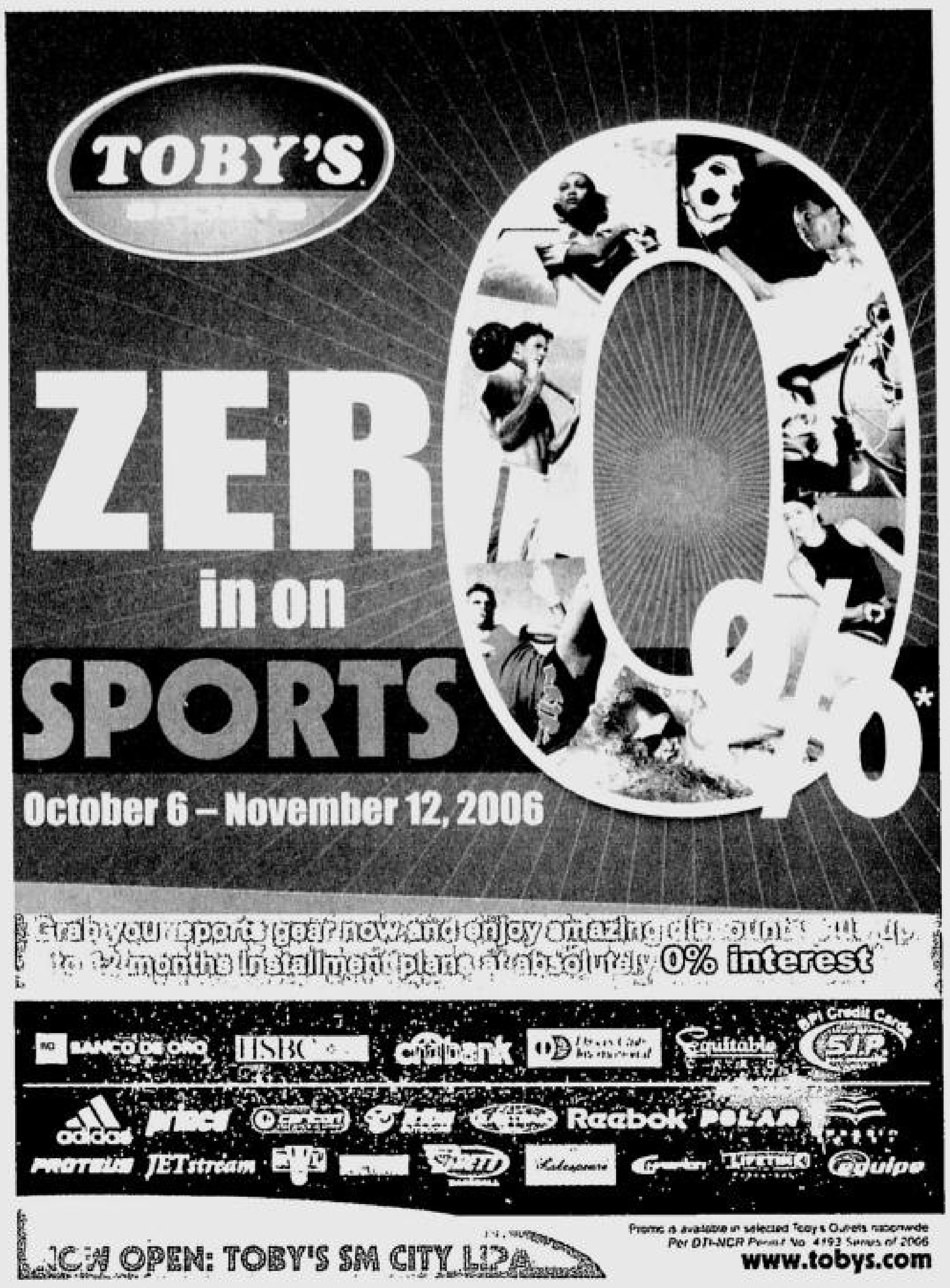
Nino Canaleta, the slam-dunk champ who became the Express' top offensive option when Ren-Ren Ritualo was traded last year, forms Air21's interesting 1-2 punch with Santos.

Red Bull, meanwhile, shoots for the early lead later when the Bulls collide with San Miguel Beer in the 7:20 p.m. contest.

The Bulls are coming off an impressive 99-93 shellacking of the fancied Alaska Aces in Guam last week and face a rock-solid side for the second straight playdate.

While Red Bull made do with very little change in the off-season, the Beermen will test rookies LA Tenorio and Gabby Espinas, who were picked fourth and fifth, respectively, in the rookie pool last month.

Focus will be on how Tenorio, dubbed as Olsen Racela's heir apparent, performs against the Red Bull squad which owns one of the meanest backcourts in the league. *Musong R. Castillo*



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No beds for 43 Filipino athletes in Doha Asiad

By June Navarro

THERE'S NO ROOM FOR 43 FILIPINO ENTRIES AT the Asian Games Village.

Organizers of the Doha Asian Games, overwhelmed by the increased number of participants submitted for the Dec. 1-15 competition, yesterday asked the competing countries to limit their respective delegations based on the number of beds available at the Village.

Moying Martelino, a member of the Asian Games secretariat, said the organizers only set aside 316 beds for the 359-strong RP delegation while the rest would have to look for accommodation outside the village.

The Philippines, which has 240 athletes on the roster, will be billeted in 25 apartments within the village with 13 beds in each apartment.

"We're still negotiating with the [Asiad organizers] if we could just add more beds in each apartment to fit the entire Philippine delegation," said Martelino.

Those staying in the Games Village will enjoy free board, meals and transportation.

The expenses of those who won't be accommodated at the Village will have to be shouldered by the PSC, whose P30 million budget for the Asiad has already been allocated for the air fare, allowances, uniforms and training expenses of the athletes, trainers, coaches and delegation staff.

Martelino said the Olympic Council of Asia had originally required the Dagoc to prepare facilities for 10,000 athletes and officials from 44 countries in the Asian Games village.

But with the bloated number of delegation from other countries, the Dagoc was forced to issue the directive limiting the number of beds for each delegation.

With the development, softball might scrap its appeal to participate in the quadrennial meet.

UE, Mapua rip Champs League foes

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST WARRIORS SHOWED NO ILL EFfects of their unceremonious exit in the UAAP recently.

GAMES TODAY
(*Blue Eagle Gym*)
2 p.m.—Letran vs Univ. of Cebu
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs Phil. Maritime

Launching a 20-0 run late in the fourth period, the Warriors routed the Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals, 84-60, to advance to the quarterfinal round of the Champions League yesterday at the EAC gym.

"With what happened to us in the UAAP, I was worried they wouldn't be focused, but they showed their game in the fourth quarter," said UE coach Dindo Pumaren of the Warriors, who were ranked fifth in the knockout-style tournament that pits the country's top 16 varsity teams.

The Warriors, who settled for third place in the UAAP, turned to Mark Borboran and James Martinez, who teamed up for 36 points.

Earlier, the Mapua Cardinals also clinched a berth in the top eight after drubbing the St. Francis of Assisi Doves, 77-60.

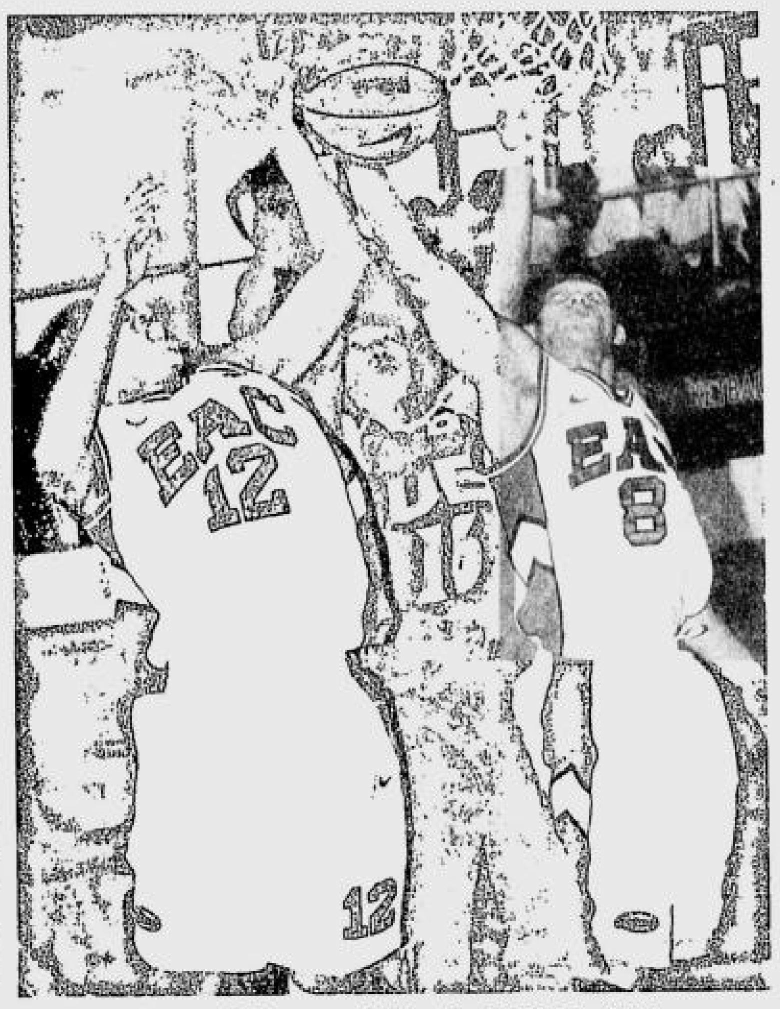
Kelvin dela Peña fired 12 of his 14 points from beyond the arc to lead the eighth-ranked Cardinals' strong second-half performance.

The NCAA fourth-placer also drew a 10-point, third-quarter job from Sean Co.

"It's a privilege to beat a champion team," said Mapua coach Horacio Lim after routing the Doves, who recently bagged the National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) crown.

The Generals, champion of the Universities and Colleges Athletic Association, sliced the Warriors' 59-47 edge to 61-55 early in the fourth.

The Cardinals will face the winner between top-ranked Ateneo Blue Eagles and the Philippine Maritime Institute.


MARK Borboran of UE gets sandwiched by EAC's John Valderama and Ronjay Buenafe during their game yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

The scores:

First Game

MAPUA 77—Dela Peña 14, Co 10, Gonzales 9, Tiongco 9, N. Pascual 8, Mazo 7, Del Rosario 7, Sumalinog 5, J. Pascual 3, Guillermo 2, Acosta 2, Palomique 2, Virata 0, Migraso 0, Cinco 0.

ST. FRANCIS 60—Losentes 19, Ilagan 16, Paez 10, Leynes 7, Concepcion 6, Rabor 0, Martin 0,Castanarez 0, Ticzon 0, Ollano 0, Donesa 0, Ticson 0.

Quarters: 14-13, 31-30, 59-43, 77-60

Second Game

UE 84—Borboran 19, Martinez 17, Gregorio 10, Canizares 15, Espiritu 8, Briones 5, Labagala 4, Arellano 4, Reyes 2, Bandaying 0, Lingganay 0, Llagas 0.

EAC 60—Buenafe 13, Melocoton 13, Ebuen 11, Castillo 8, Baybay 6, Musni 4, Valderama 4, Daculan 1, Anzures 0, Mendoza 0, Manansala 0, Hubalde 0, Lapuz 0.

Quarters: 16-11, 32-31, 55-47, 84-60

Philta drops Riza from Asiad squad

By Musong R. Castillo

RIZA ANGELA ZALAMEDA, THE UCLA Bruin star in the US NCAA who won the Philippines' mixed doubles gold with Eric Taino in the Southeast Asian Games last year, has been dropped from the national team for the Asian Games.

The dusky, stocky right-hander was sacked by the Philippine Tennis Association recently due to what officials said was her penchant for making undue "demands."

Homegrown Czarina Mae Arevalo and Denise Dy have been tapped to banner the women's team in Doha, Qatar, where the 15th staging of the Games will be held from Dec. 1.

The men's roster remained untouched with Fil-Ams Taino and Cecil Mamiit to be joined by Johnny Arcilla and Patrick John Tierro.

Zalameda allegedly "demanded" too much during her brief stint here.

A Philta source, who requested anonymity, said the wishes of the 18-year-old daughter of former RP Davis Cupper Rolly Zalameda became far too exorbitant for comfort.

Billeted at the Manila Pavilion for the duration of the SEAG, the young Zalameda allegedly asked to be transferred to a suite instead of her regular room while promising to pay for all expenses. But Zalameda did not pay the bills which amounted to more than P100,000. Then-Philta president Manuel Misa ended up settling the account.

SAMSUNG TOUR

Jaraula, Ababa fire 69s for 1-shot edge

SAN MIGUEL, BUKIDNON—Boboy Jaraula birdied the final hole to tie Jonel Ababa for the first-round lead on three-under-par 69 at the start of the fifth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Del Monte Golf Club yesterday.

Ababa shot three eagles as the field took advantage of the reachable par-5s but he also stumbled with five bogeys, the last on the 18th in a round of 34-35.

Jaraula, mainstay of the host club, came through with a 35-34 card spiked by two eagles.

Rufino Bayron trailed the leaders by just a stroke with a 70 in this four-day event serving as the final leg of the annual series sponsored by top electronics firm Samsung.

Bayron also gunned down three eagles, including one on the par-4 No. 3, but failed to sustain a fine 34 start with a 36 at the back.

Three players—Mark Fernando, Tristan Tabanas and Paul Miñoza—stood another stroke back at 71, ensuring a tough battle for top honors.

The winner will join previous leg champions Marvin Dumandan, Jun Bernis, Gene Bondoc and Ferdie Aunzo in the finals of the event set next month at Mt. Malarayat.

Meanwhile, Chihiro Ikeda shot a 71 to pace ladies Class A with Lovelyn Guioguio in second (73) and Gigi Frokjaer in third (80).

Kristine Leonen showed the way in Class B with a 68 for a whopping 20-shot lead over Maribel San Miguel, who had an 88.

Rachel Bacarrisas shot a 95 to post a four-shot lead over Imelda Arancon (99) in Class C.

Ardina seizes 3-stroke HK Ladies lead

FILIPINO SENSATION DOTTIE ARDINA RECOVERED from an early double bogey to shoot a three-under-par 69 yesterday and storm into the lead of the Hong Kong Ladies Open Amateur Golf Championship at the Discovery Bay Golf Club.

The 12-year-old Ardina gunned down six birdies at the Diamond course, outplaying compatriot Cyna Rodriguez and Thailand's Chayuda Singhuwan in the featured threesome to take a three-stroke advantage heading into today's final round.

Recovering from her 72 at the Ruby course on Wednesday, Ardina posted a 141 total to overtake erstwhile leader Singhsuwan, who slipped with a 74, and move closer to her sixth international title this year.

"My putting clicked," said Ardina in Filipino. "I hit all the fairways, that's why it's easy to hit the greens."

The Canlubang bet got going with a 30-foot birdie on No. 5. She also birdied Nos. 6, 8, 10, 11 and 18.

Ardina, a first-year student at the School of Tomorrow and one of the spearheads of a 23-player pool training under the ICTSI golf program, is coming off a victory in last month's Indonesia Open.

Rodriguez, the 13-14 division Junior World champion, tumbled with a 73 for 145.

Carmelette Villaroman, a former RP Ladies Open winner, carded a 73 and shared third place with Singaporean Melissa Loh (73), Narisara Kerdrit of Thailand (73) and Dayanitha Kunesakran of Malaysia (73) with 148s. Malaysian Michelle Koh was fourth (70-146).

Other RP scorers: Linnel de Villa, 74-153; Anya Tanpinco, 78-155; Bambee dela Paz, 76-156; Debbie de Villa, 85-167 (missed cut by one stroke). Roy Luarca

ARDINA: Showing the elders

Que trails Taiwan Open leader by 2

QUE: Strong start

TAIPEI—Filipino Angelo Que fired a three-under-par 69 Thursday and stood just two shots off Australian pacesetter Kane Webber at the start of the $300,000 Taiwan Open at the Sunrise Golf and Country Club here.

Webber, playing in his maiden season on the Asian Tour, shot a blemish-free 67 to ward off local favorite and former winner Tsai Chi-huang who carded a 68 with Sweden's Olle Nordberg.

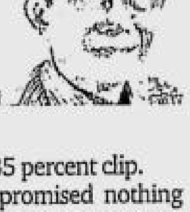
Cookie Lao and Gerald Rosales also fared fairly well with even par 72s even as countrymen Juvic Pagunsan and Jerome Delariarte struggled with 75s.

Another Filipino, Artemio Murakami, shot a horrendous 81 and virtually bowed out of the money chase.

The 26-year-old Webber, who won the Macau Open in May, gunned down birdies on the sixth, seventh and ninth holes. After saving par on the 13th hole, he sustained his momentum with another birdie on the 15th. *AFP*

What keeps Jarencio on winning track?

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

IN A GAME FILLED WITH DRAMA, EMOTION and nail-biting exchanges of shots—notably in the homestretch—the UST Growling Tigers won the 69th University Athletic Association of the Philippines varsity championship by nosing out the hard-fighting Ateneo Blue Eagles in overtime, 76-74, before a large crowd at the Araneta Coliseum on Monday night.

It was UST's 19th cage title, tying the school with erstwhile defending champion Far Eastern University for the most number of championships won since Sept. 27, 1938, when the UAAP was founded. The victory also marked UST's return to the throne after 10 long years and served as a fitting welcome to debuting coach Pido Jarencio, who was a former top UST player himself in the mid-1980s when the Tigers were known as the Glowing Goldies.

"We entered this championship ready," said a beaming Jarencio in a post-game interview. "We were the underdogs in this tournament but we were focused. The team had the heart and desire to succeed. The team was really bound to win the championship."

In his heyday, Jarencio was an explosive 5-foot-10 shooter who played the starring role for Santo Tomas. But despite his shooting prowess, Jarencio still failed to give his school a UAAP championship. After college, he played in the professional Philippine Basketball Association where, at age 34, he made his mark as a top-caliber shooter during his 13th season as a pro, hitting 92 three-pointers—the most by any PBA player for that year—with a 35 percent clip.

His debut as UST coach promised nothing lofty. In fact, some cynics had even viewed his arrival with disfavor, saying Jarencio was not an ideal choice to boost the school's declining basketball fortune because UST did not manage to gain the initiative as the season progressed. Still, Jarencio was unfazed.

With only two wins to show after the first round, the neophyte coach guided the underrated Tigers to one of the greatest comebacks in UAAP basketball history. First, he steered his underdog team from the cellar, then—working with dogged determination—told his players not to give up the fight no matter the odds. The players responded by working harder until they were able to move up to third place overall.

But the road to the top was not easy. You see, UST also had to survive a series of injuries and illness to some of its key players during the season and, during the Final Four, had to sweat it out before overcoming the twice-to-beat advantage of second-ranked University of the East.

Jarencio worked hard for his opportunity at UST. "Look at this big (UST) crowd," Jarencio said after the tumultuous game. "We finally got them to believe in the team once more."

* * *

ANGPING SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT: The immediate past president of softball, former Manila Rep. Harry Angping, said the softball association is appealing to the Philippine Olympic Committee to reconsider its decision scrapping the softball team for the coming Doha Asian Games.

"For the sake of the country and the athletes, I hope the POC would heed our appeal by including the softball team to the national delegation that is going to Doha," the white-haired Angping said. "It is unfair to the softball athletes who have worked hard and trained long enough just to be able to play in the Asian Games. Without the softball team in the Asiad, the athletes will suffer as they will be deprived of this golden opportunity to participate in an international competition like the Asian Games."

Besides, Angping stressed, the RP team is ready to do battle anytime, anywhere. "The lineup of the Philippine team that won last year's Southeast Asian Games championship is still intact; the team has enough funds to go to Doha, with businessman-sportsman Jean Henri Lhuillier, the newly elected softball president, providing the financial assistance and, more importantly, the group is even willing to accommodate the four standouts from Adamson University in the spirit of reconciliation."

SPORTSWATCH

UAAP stars clash with UAAP standouts

WHO'S THE BETTER PLAYER, KEN BONO OR SAMUEL EKWE? WHO ROAR the loudest, the Tigers of Santo Tomas or the Lions of San Beda? Who's the better league, the UAAP or the NCAA? These and more provide the backdrops as the best and the brightest of the top two collegiate leagues in the land clash tomorrow in the Bantay Bata 163 All-Stars at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City. MVP Bono will lead the UAAP pack that includes fellow Mythical First Team awardees Jervy Cruz of victorious UST, JC Intal of Ateneo de Manila, Marvin Cruz of State U and Jeff Chan of Far Eastern U. Ekwe, the Nigerian 6-foot-8 star who was adjudged this year's rookie MVP for triumphant San Beda, on the other hand, will spearhead the NCAA side along with teammate Yousif Aljamal, Jason Castro of PCU, Floyd Dedicatoria of Jose Rizal and Khiel Misa of Perpetual Help. Pido Jarencio of UST will coach UAAP while Koy Banal of San Beda the NCAA.

Codiñera ladies chess unfolds tomorrow

THE CODIÑERA LADIES ACTIVE CHESS TOURNAMENT GETS GOING AT 11 a.m. tomorrow and the Open section on Sunday at the lower second floor of St. Francis Square, behind SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. The Ladies division is open to titled and untitled women players. The Open section is open to all players regardless of age and sex. Both are one-day tournaments and will apply the six-round Swiss system and 25 minutes per player. The Open winner will get P6,000 while the Ladies champ gets P3,000. For inquiries, call 826-8560, 0916-852-1069 or 0916-6608-712.

90 fights lined up in Pasay derby today

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE PASAY CITY COCKPIT TODAY AS THE PCCA 5-stag derby series fires off at 3 p.m. with 90 matches on tap. The long list of competitors in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 includes Tony Antonio, Gerry Ramos, Lito Roque, Pol Estrellado, Boy Javier, Ric de Guzman, Jake Macasaet, Dodie Villarubio, ASF Farms, Madlambayan Brothers, Jet and Joel Fernando, Bong Garcia, Ramon Mancenares, Super Pacman entry, Rey Briones, Jack Chung, Frankie Uy and Pepito Ngo. Meanwhile, the venue will also host the 3-stag elimination round of Labanan Stag series on Oct. 20. Pit manager Eric dela Rosa said that no entry fee is needed. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

Makati 5-stag event stakes P1 million

PROMINENT COCKERS COLLIDE AT THE MAKATI COLISEUM ON WEDNESday in the Super 5-Stag Derby which dangles P1 million in guaranteed prizes. Backed by B-Meg Derby Ace, the event will be hosted by the Winning Time Derby group and assisted by promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. Entry fee and minimum bet are P33,000 and P22,000, respectively. Participants may only field stags banded by PCAP, NGBA, Migba, LGBA, GF-BAN, Bakbakan, Balbina and Pagba. Weight limits are from 1.7 kilogram to 22.2 kg. For reservation of cockhouses, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Bobon Lancer (7), Coquette (6), Kwakwak (5), Goldsphere (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—La Signorina (1), Valiente (2), Smiling Jaeda (4), Aim And Fire (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Liram (6), Tango With Me (3), Conquer D'Sun (5), Money Matters/Shadow Grove (4)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Rivendel (2), Dixie The Youner (12), Golden Connection (11), Business Class (13), U Are My Sunshine (8)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Thor Patria (3), Deputy Stravinsky (6), Stop Talking (1), Penny Wise (7)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Magiliw (7), Brazen Truth (10), Earth Angel (2), El Cid (5), The Strategist (4)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Hall Medium (3), Expiditer (5), Strong Jays (6), Yankee Clipper (2)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Rivaldo (2), Madel Line (2), Mary Jane Bomb (3), Kawiliwili (1), Joint Account (2), Amazing Firenze (1)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—St. Germain (10), Miss Vicky (5), Ingay Ingay (12), Head Turner (7), Ravishing Rafly (8), Lucky Strike (9)

Mets scuttle Dodgers; A's take 2-0 lead

NEW YORK—THE NEW YORK METS' BULLPEN COMBINED TO edge out the Los Angeles Dodgers, 6-5, in their series opener on Wednesday, while their Big Apple rivals the Yankees had the second game of their divisional series postponed due to rain.

Inclement weather was not an issue at the Minneapolis Metrodome, where Oakland's Mark Kotsay slammed an inside the park two-run homer in a 5-2 win over the Minnesota Twins as the Athletics took a 2-0 lead in their best-of-five series.

With aces Pedro Martinez and Orlando Hernandez out through injury, the Mets' post-season chances appeared gloomy when they took to the Shea Stadium field for Game One of their NL division series with rookie John Maine on the mound.

However, Maine provided the Mets 4-1/3 sharp innings, giving up one run and the heart of the New York order—Carlos Delgado and David Wright—delivered the big hits as the Mets hung on take an early advantage in the series.

Delgado, playing the first post-season game of his 14-year career, stroked four hits, including a mammoth home run and Wright hit two doubles to drive in three for New York, who were making their first playoff appearance since 2000.

"It's nice to see him (Delgado) get the opportunity to finally get on this stage and come through," Mets manager Willie Randolph said.

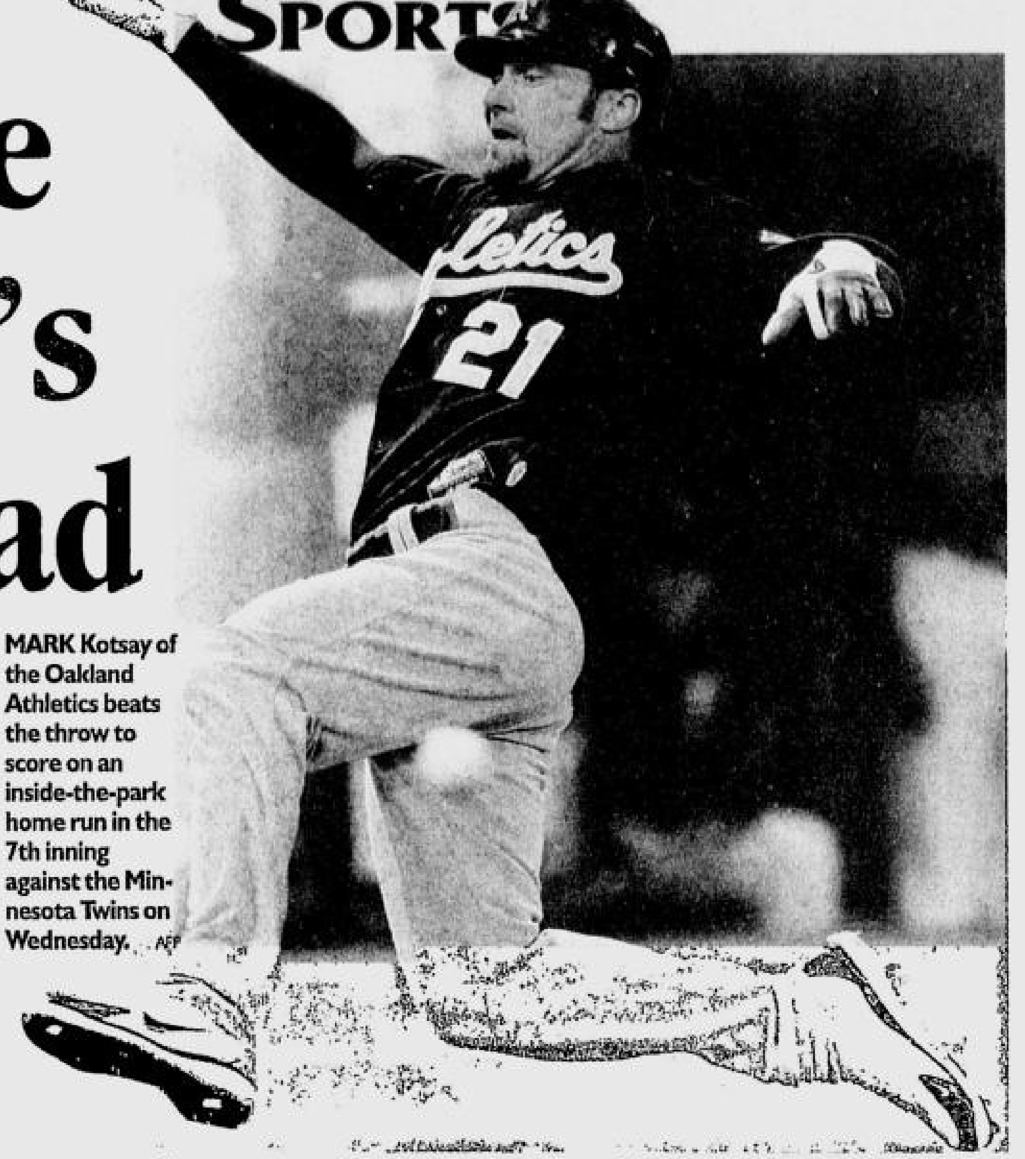
Deadlocked at 4-4, Delgado also delivered the go-ahead run in the bottom of the seventh, when he singled sharply to center to score Jose Reyes. The Mets also received a solid effort from their bullpen, Randolph using five relievers to finish the game.

In Minneapolis, the Athletics moved to within a win of sweeping the Twins and getting past the first round of the playoffs for the first time since 1992, having lost nine consecutive AL division series games in which they had a chance to advance since 2000.

"We're up 2-0, and that's it," Athletics general manager Billy Beane said. "That means nothing (ahead of Game Three on) Friday. We've been here before."

Tied 2-2 in the seventh inning, with two out and a runner on first, Kotsay lined a shot into center field in front of charging Torii Hunter.

Reuters



MARK Kotsay of the Oakland Athletics beats the throw to score on an inside-the-park home run in the 7th inning against the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday. AFP

Bonds undergoes elbow surgery

SAN FRANCISCO—BARRY BONDS, WHOSE record-setting home run feats have been dogged by allegations of steroid use, said Wednesday he has undergone left elbow surgery to remove bone chips that hindered him this season.

In a posting on his website, Bonds said he plans to begin off-season training in the next few weeks with the 42-year-old outfielder planning to return next year and continue his pursuit of the all-time US homer mark.

"On Monday I had an operation on my elbow to clean up the bone chips which were causing irritation and swelling throughout the year," Bonds wrote.

Bonds will be a Major League Baseball free agent next season and the San Francisco Giants are evaluating whether or not to bring him back, having already said he must take a pay cut and will not be a central figure.

Bonds has hit 734 career homers, 22 shy of breaking Hank Aaron's all-time US major league record of 755 homers.

AFP

Gomez wins in world Jrs

FILIPINO NATIONAL MASTER JOHN PAUL Gomez rebounded from his first round loss by beating Tomek Rej of Australia in the second round of the 2006 World Junior Boys and Girls Chess Championship late Wednesday at the Petrosian Chess House in Yerevan, Armenia.

Gomez, a fourth year Mechanical Engineering student at DLSU-Taft, yielded to top seed GM Wang Yue via time forfeit in their Slav Defense duel late Tuesday.

With 1.0 point after two rounds, Gomez climbed at 28th to 58th places in the event which attracted 11 GMs.

The 20-year-old Gomez will face Calvin Jong Klaasen of Republic of South Africa (RSA) in the third round.

Yue, a former World U-14 champion, settled for a draw with IM Zaven Andriasian of Armenia after 35 moves of a Sicilian Skirmish to lead a big group of 1.5 pointers that includes compatriot GM Zhao Jun, who also split the point with Armenian FM Armen Tonoian.

Second seed GM Wang Hao of China and third seed GM Levan Pantusulaia of Georgia posted their second straight wins at the expense of FM Tomasz Warakomski of Poland and Daan Brandenburg of the Netherlands, respectively, to share top spot with 10 others.

NM Marlon Bernardino, contributor

Gonzales stays in title hunt

INTERNATIONAL MASTER JAYSON GONZALES of the Philippines beat Fide Master Falko Meyer of Germany in the fifth round of the 19th International Chess Open Es Vermar yesterday to stay in the title hunt at the Antiga Escola Graduada in Mallorca, Spain. Handling black, Gonzales prevailed after 35 moves of an Alekhine Defense and improved to 4.0 points on four wins against a lone loss to top seed GM Lazaro Bruzon of Cuba. Bruzon stopped overnight leader IM Georgious Souledis of Greece after 43 moves of a Trompovsky Opening to raise his tally to 4.5 points, the same total posted by IM Marc Dutreeuw of Belgium and IM Martin Senff of Germany.

NM Marlon Bernardino

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Beckham dismisses retirement claim

DAVID BECKHAM

LONDON—DAVID BECKHAM'S SPOKESMAN has dismissed a claim made by Real Madrid president Ramon Calderon that the former England captain will quit in two years.

And Calderon said Wednesday that he was confident the 31-year-old would extend his contract with the Spanish side which expires next year, despite not holding down a regular place on the team this season.

"As far as I know he has decided to retire in two years' time," Calderon told BBC Radio Five Live.

"It would be fantastic if he would stay with us for the next two years."

But a spokesman for Beckham said: "This is a complete surprise to us. No one has ever discussed a retirement date."

Calderon insisted that Beckham is still in the frame for Real coach Fabio Capello despite being restricted in the past few weeks to the substitutes' bench.

"We need him. He's playing very well. The coach trusts him. We hope everything will be arrived at in the next 15 to 20 days to sign the new contract," he said.

Calderon hinted that Beckham may head to the United States after leaving Madrid.

"I'm quite sure that nowadays a player at 34 or 35 can play easily. Especially him, who's a great professional, he's been training all his life.

Beckham moved to Real from Manchester United in 2003 in a deal worth $46.8 million.

He would be free to negotiate with other clubs in January if he failed to agree a new contract with Real, who have have failed to win a major trophy in his three seasons in Spain.

Beckham was axed from the England team by new manager Steve McLaren following its World Cup flop.

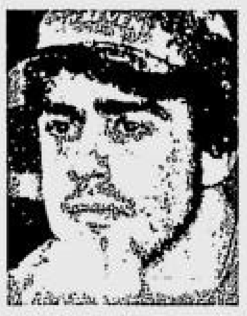
But the midfielder says he is determined to force his way back into the squad, even if he doubts McClaren's public declaration that "the door is still open."

AFP

Alonso, Schumacher brace for close race

SUZUKA, JAPAN—THE 2006 Formula One title could be decided this weekend as reigning world champion Fernando Alonso and Michael Schumacher enter Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix tied atop the driver's standings.

SCHUMACHER



ALONSO

Trailing by 25 points heading into last Sunday's Chinese GP with seven races ago, Schumacher's win at Shanghai put him even with Alonso on 116 points.

Schumacher's latest victory was the 91st of his storied career his fifth of the last seven races, outpacing Alonso's start to the season when the Spaniard captured six of the first nine.

The last time Alonso won was in June at the Canadian GP. Alonso is not discouraged.

"We will try to improve and to win every race," said Alonso. "Sometimes we can and sometimes not. (In China) we had a great opportunity, and we lost at the end with weather conditions that were not favorable for us."

The Renault driver trouble with the wrong choice of tires on a drying track at Shanghai. As if he needed ominous signs, it was raining Thursday when he came to the 5.8-kilometer (3.6-mile) Suzuka circuit.

"Suzuka is one of the more technical circuits, very difficult, and hopefully we will have a good race," Alonso said. "I think I have been very good here in the last few years, and it is the race of the last three that we are (most) looking forward to."

Alonso finished third here last year and Schumacher fifth. In 2004, Schumacher won the race, and his last driver's title for Ferrari.

AP

Velez-Pulido tops Rush Smashfest

FEATHER 'N STRINGS' JOFER Velez and Beth Pulido displayed stellar stunts and skills to rule the first Rush Interclub Smashfest title last Saturday at the Olympic Badminton Club in Libis, Quezon City.

Velez and Pulido bagged the mixed doubles championship at the expense of Wowie Agustin and JV Madrid of Olympic Badminton Club, 21-19, 21-18, in the final round.

Velez and Pulido scalped Dan Astillero and Marife Durana of Centro Atletico, 21-13, 21-19, in the semifinals.

"I hope the sport will get even more popular and more people will know how great the sport is," said Pulido.

Agustin and Madrid, actually had a good run from the eliminations until the semifinals where they outgunned Court Zone's Cliff Marvin Yan and Lorie Gabiane, 22-20, 21-13.

INTERCLUB SMASHFEST 06
INTERCLUB SMASHFEST 06

JOFER Velez and Beth Pulido receive their trophy and cash prize during Saturday's awarding ceremony at the Olympic Badminton Club in Libis, Quezon City.

"Its events like this that are worthy to rave about," said tournament director Eduardo Lim. "No frills, No catch. Just pure straight up, action-packed badminton for free. Its a smashing success for Rush Fitness Water and URC (Universal Robina Corp.)."

A total of 16 mixed doubles pairs from different clubs vied in the finals for Rush Interclub Smashfest's first-ever title.

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Irish AF3 driver injures hand; Sy needs a sweep

FILIPINO RACING STAR Tyson Sy celebrated his 19th birthday yesterday hoping erstwhile Asian Formula Three series leader Ali Jackson of Ireland would heal in time for the last four rounds of the circuit on Nov. 4-5 at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario.

Instead of thanking his lucky star for the vehicular accident that broke Jackson's right hand in Dublin last week—which practically ruled him out of the BRC races—Sy expressed relief the Irish teener was doing well.

"It would be better if he could drive in Batangas," said Sy, lead driver of Speedtech Asia. "I am really hoping he could still make it to Batangas. With James (Winslow) way ahead of us (in the race for the overall title), I and Ali would surely have to wage a tough battle for second place."

With 80 points still up for grabs, the Filipino still has a realistic chance of grabbing the title, although he will have to complete a sweep of the last four rounds while hoping that Winslow, of JA Motorsport, does not finish at least once.

Propped up by his sweep of the last five rounds in Indonesia last month, Winslow has gained the inside track for the title with 207 points, 26 up on Jackson, 35 on Sy and 79 on fellow Briton Dillon Battistini.

Jackson, the 17-year-old lead driver of Aran Racing, broke his right hand when the jeep he was driving in a farm in Dublin turned turtle. His hand will be in a cast for at least four weeks.

Sy knows his title hopes will rest on whether his Dallara 304, wrecked in a crash in Zhuhai, China, last July, can be fixed in time for the races.

Palos Verdes seeks repeat

DAVAO—RANCHO PALOS VERDES EYES NO less than a repeat of last year's strong start when it hosts seven other members of Sta. Lucia Realty's family of top golf clubs in the opening leg of the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour 2006 today and tomorrow.

With the Palos Verdes course keeping its topnotch condition, the 240 players in the 36-hole tourney try to boost their respective contingent's drive for the overall championship.

Palos Verdes dominated the kickoff leg, also serving as the Mindanao stop last year, and was still in the running for the championship until Alta Vista of Cebu stepped up and won the Sta. Lucia Cup pulling away.

The Alta Vistans remain a potent force and is sending a huge delegation in a bid to match the three wins of Eagle Ridge in the Tour.

The three teams in the winners roster so far are joined by Lakewood (Cabanatuan), Caliraya Springs (Laguna), Orchard (Cavite), Rancho Palos Verdes (Davao), Royale Tagaytay and Summit Point (Batangas).

On tap are team and individual events.

OCT. 8, 2006 STARTS 10am SHARP

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Cecile ZAMORA
Retailer, Store for All Seasons
Columnist, Fashion and Beauty section, The Philippine Star MEGA Designer of the Year for Street wear, 2000

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- **ICT jobs** seen to hit 1M in 2010 /B2
- **Half of firms** violating tax laws /B8

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Inflation down to its lowest rate in 27 mos

Slowdown in growth of consumer prices due to stronger peso, lower fuel costs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INCREASE IN CONSUMER prices further eased to an annual rate of 5.7 percent in September—the slowest in 27 months—due mainly to a stronger peso and lower oil prices.

The September figure reflected the seventh straight month that inflation has fallen. It was the lowest since June 2004, when it hit 5.4 percent, according to the National Statistics Office.

For the first nine months of the year, the NSO pegged the average rate of inflation at 6.8 percent.

Inflation in August stood at 6.3 percent.

Excluding the volatile prices of selected food and energy items, core inflation further decelerated to an annual rate of 5 percent last month from the 5.3 percent in August.

The NSO reported that inflation for housing and repairs (H&R) hit 3.7 percent, slowing down from the previous month's 3.8 percent; fuel, light and water (FLW), 12.9 percent from 13 percent; services, 7.7 percent from 9 percent; miscellaneous items, 2.8 percent from 3 percent, and food, beverage and tobacco (FBT), 4.9 percent from 5.6 percent.

For food alone, inflation eased to 4.9 percent from 5.5 percent. This was partly attributed to

INFLATION/ B2

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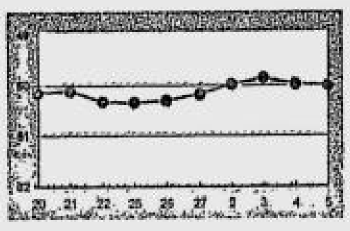

SEPTEMBER OCTOBER

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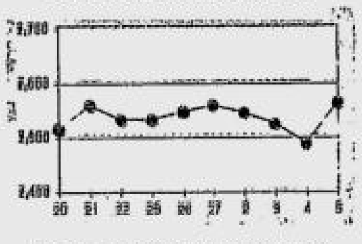
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



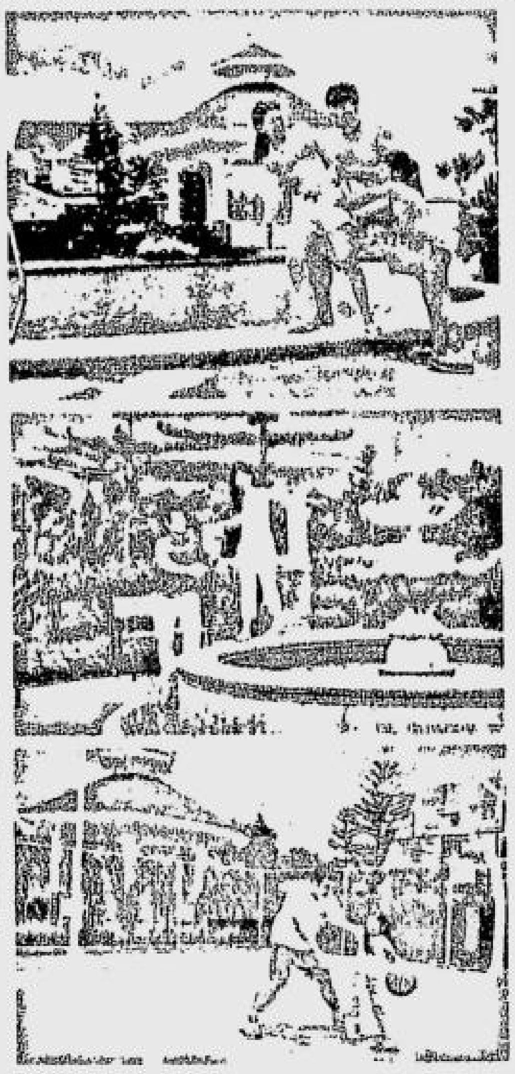
(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 2.99% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 2.99 percent higher, following tame inflation data which raised hopes the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would trim its key interest rates soon, dealers said.

The composite index was up 74.24 points at 2,561.06 having traded between 2,561.89 and 2,486.82 points. The broader all-share index rose 38.67 points to 1,572.16.

Gainers led losers 78 to 23 with 49 unchanged. Turnover totaled 2.1 billion shares valued at P7.8 billion ($156 million). *AFP*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ICT jobs seen to hit 1M in 2010

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE 266,000 JOBS THAT THE government has so far generated this year from its information and communications technology (ICT) efforts may grow to more than one million by 2010, according to the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT).

In a presentation made during the Infrastructure Forum held last Wednesday, CICT Secretary Ramon P. Sales said ICT efforts had so far generated 266,000 jobs this year. The figure is expected to grow to 1,082,800 in 2010—an increase of about 479 percent.

In 2005, a total of 163,250 jobs were filled, Sales added.

CICT made the presentation to encourage private sector funding and expertise in ICT projects.

Out of the total jobs, call center work accounted for 112,000 jobs in 2005 and 179,000 in 2006. This sector could create 506,500 jobs by 2010.

For back office work, 22,500 jobs were generated in 2005 and 40,500 this year. Some 337,000 jobs may be counted under this sector in 2010.

Software development filled 12,000 jobs in 2005, and contributed 15,600 this year. Around 44,600 jobs may be expected from this sector in 2010.

In medical transcription, there were 5,500 jobs in 2005 and 13,800 this year. An estimated 114,700 jobs may be counted under this sector in 2010.

There were about 4,500 animators in 2005 and 6,800 in 2006. Their number can grow to 24,400 in 2010.

Other ICT-related jobs accounted for 6,750 in 2005 and 10,100 this year. The figure is expected to reach 55,600 in 2010.

In order to help generate that many ICT jobs, the government, through the CICT, has to provide appropriate ICT skills training to students, develop suitable sites for call centers and other business process outsourcing outfits, and stem the exodus of knowledge workers.

The government's e-governance program alone will use up P4.455 billion, ICT education and distance learning program P7.876 billion, meteorological services enhancements P1.198 billion, government mass media and broadcast services projects P4:015 billion, frequency monitoring P3.380 billion and Philippine Postal Corp. improvements P3.380 billion.

Out of the total P21.960 billion investment needed, the total public investment from the national government, government-owned and -controlled corporations and other sources is P18.581 billion. Some P3.380 billion in private investments is still needed.

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Oct. 03, 2006	Last Week Sep. 26, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.51258	1.50979
Managed Fund - Peso	1.67813	1.67675
Growth Fund - Peso	1.36601	1.36463
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3029	1.2959

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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	UNIT PRICES (In Php)	
	October 02, 2006	Sept. 25, 2006
Fixed Income Fund	1.202376	1.199734
Balanced Fund	1.214035	1.211227
Equity Fund	1.245197	1.242016

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The GBR Museum Located inside Gateway Business Park in Gen. Trias, Cavite will be closed for two (2) weeks for renovation. Prospective visitors may call for confirmation of the reopening at the following telephone nos.: 046-433-0021 or 892-2916. We will be happy to welcome the visitors at the Museum's reopening.

RLC sets aside ₱15B for projects in next 2 yrs

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ROBINSONS LAND Corp. is earmarking P15 billion for new malls and offices, land acquisition and housing projects in the next two years, company vice chair Lance Gokongwei said yesterday.

Of the amount, Gokongwei said P7 billion would be spent next year and P8 billion in 2008.

Funds, he said, would come from the offering of additional RLC shares and new fixed-rate borrowings.

RLC is setting aside 40 percent of the P15-billion budget for new malls to be put up in Dumaguete, Bulacan, Paco (in Manila, Tagaytay and Davao, as well as for the renovation of existing malls in Ermita (Manila) and Bacolod. About 30 percent will be used for new office spaces that will cater to business processing outsourcing (BPO) companies, while the balance will be spent for land acquisition, and housing and hotel development.

Today, RLC is one of the biggest BPO lessors in the country with 116,000 square meters of leasable BPO space. It plans to make available another 80,000 square meters of space in the next 18 months.

"There are a lot of opportunities in the Philippines that were created by the overseas Filipino workers' market, BPO growth and a favorable interest rate regime," Gokongwei said.

In the meantime, the company said the sale of 932.8 million new and secondary RLC shares at P12 per share generated P11.2 billion.

Inflation down . . .

From page B1

improved production by the agriculture sector, which boosted overall food supply.

There are doubts, however, on whether the slowdown in food inflation would be sustained in October, following the devastation of Typhoon "Milenyo," which affected several farmlands.

The slower price increase for food was reflected in rice, 1.2 percent from the previous month's 1.9 percent; cereal preparations, 5.5 percent from 5.7 percent; dairy products, 5.9 percent from 6 percent; fish, 5.1 percent from 6.3 percent; fruits and vegetables, 8.2 percent from 11.6 percent; and meat, 1.9 percent from 2.2 percent.

However, higher price rates were recorded for corn, 7.2 percent from 5.1 percent; and eggs, 7.2 percent from 5.9 percent.

The bullish peso was partly credited for the slowdown in inflation. The stronger currency made imported goods cheaper in peso terms.

The peso finished at 50.21 to the dollar in September, much stronger than the close of 56.01 in the same month last year.

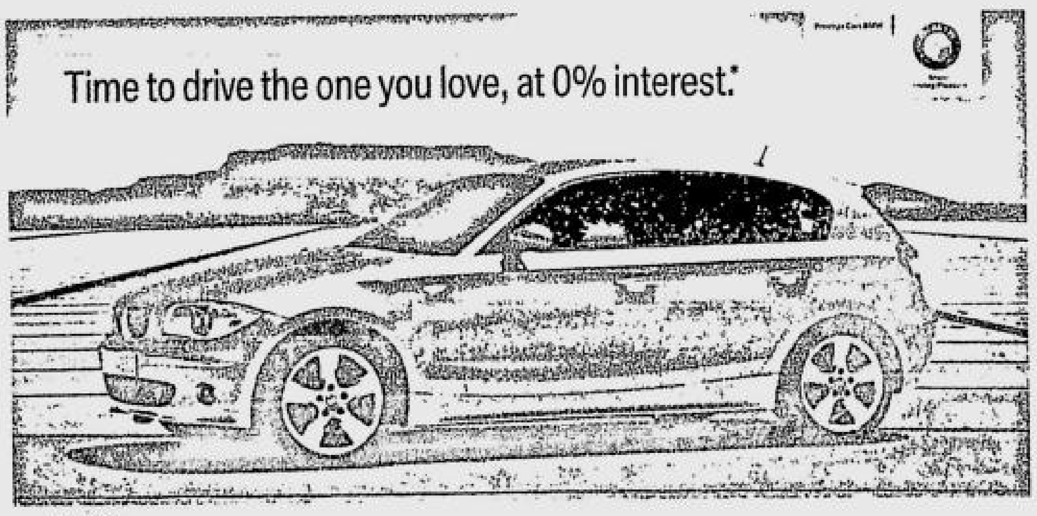
The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said inflation rate for September hit the lower-end of its forecast of between 5.7 and 6.4 percent for the month.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters that the central bank's Monetary Board was set to review its monetary policy to take into account the downward trend in inflation.

The monetary authority has kept its overnight borrowing rate at 7.5 percent since October last year.

The interest rate is used by the BSP as a tool to influence the movement of inflation. *AFP*

Time to drive the one you love, at 0% interest.*



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MODEL	COLOR	YEAR	MILEAGE	PRICE
118i Sport	Sparkling Graphite	2005	8,304 kms	P1,850,000
118i Sport	Titanium Silver	2005	12,913 kms	P1,850,000
120i	Sparkling Graphite	2005	9,162 kms	P1,780,000
120i Executive	Titanium Silver	2005	11,646 kms	P1,880,000

*Avail of the Zero% Interest, 24-Month Plan (For 1 Series Models)

MODEL	COLOR	YEAR	MILEAGE	PRICE
316i (E36)	Alpine White	1998	52,000 kms	P630,000
316i (E46)	Titanium Silver	2002	22,000 kms	P1,100,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Orient Blue	2003	49,000 kms	P1,380,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Titanium Silver	2003	12,602 kms	P1,580,000
318i Executive (E46)	Titanium Silver	2002	25,645 kms	P1,350,000
320i (E36)	Calypso Red	1997	46,000 kms	P850,000
320i Executive	Titanium Silver	2006	4,110 kms	P2,380,000
523i (E39)	Dunkel Blue	1997	82,169 kms	P1,000,000
523i Executive	Silver Grey	2006	3,650 kms	P4,360,000
530i Executive	Titanium Silver	2006	1,720 kms	P4,921,000
Z4 2.5i Roadster	Sterling Grey	2004	2,900 kms	P2,795,000
X3 2.5i SAV	Black Sapphire	2004	27,655 kms	P2,650,000
X3 2.5i SAV	Mystic Blue	2005	22,784 kms	P2,790,000
X5 3.0d	Oxford Green	2004	20,000 kms	P3,350,000
740i L	Oxford Green	1996	18,750 kms	P1,880,000

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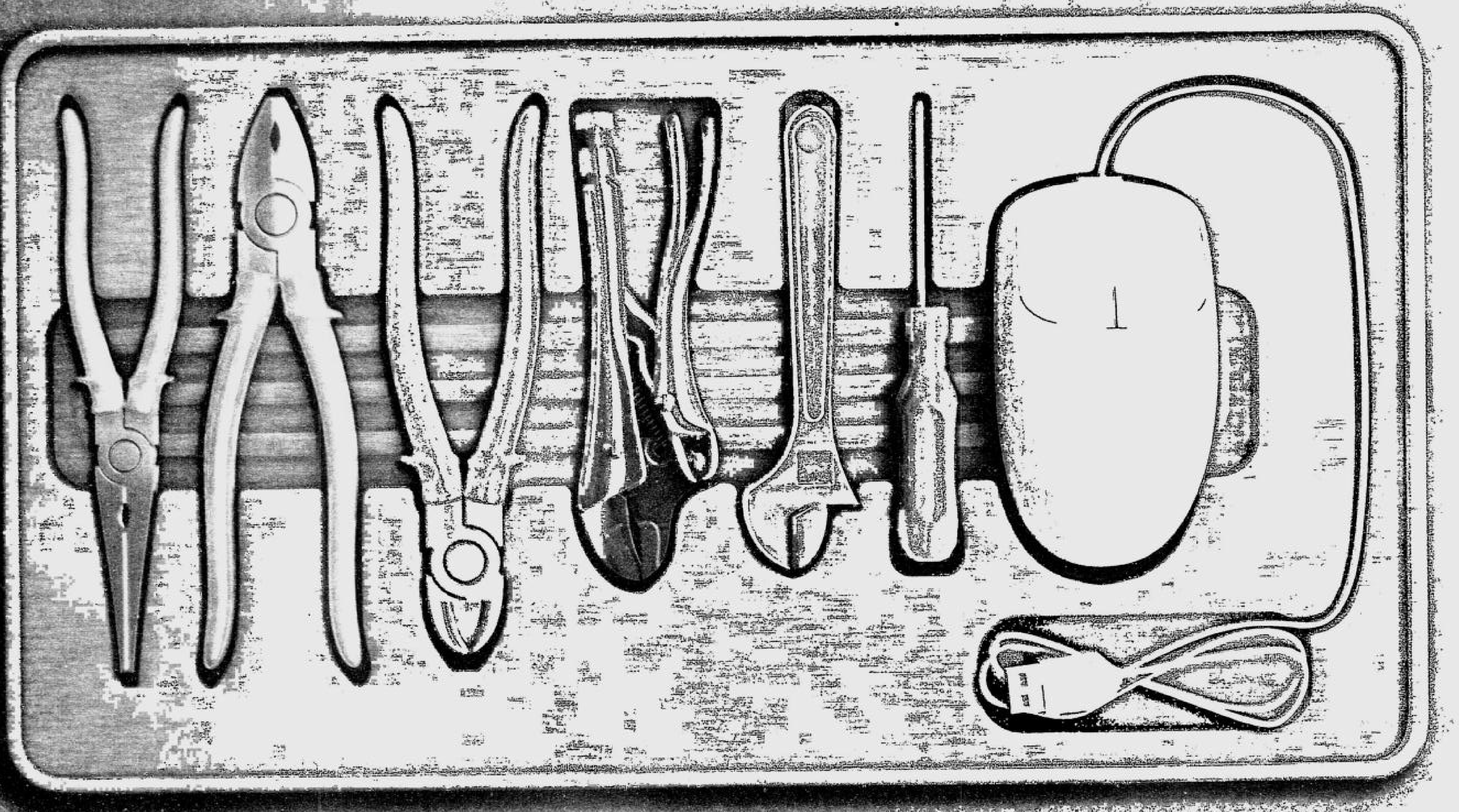
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 5, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	40	42	40	41	946,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	59.5	58	59	1,531,300
China Banking Corp.	655	655	640	640	14,940
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	3,820,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	66	66	64	65.5	296,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40.5	41.5	40.5	41	1,287,000
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	5,500
Phil. Savings Bank	43	43	43	43	2,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	18,000
Security Bank Corp.	50	50	50	50	76,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45.5	45.5	45	45	2,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	5.7	6.3	5.4	5.4	6,743,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30	30.5	30	30.5	15,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	95,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2030	2030	2030	1,210
Ivantage Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	2,624,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	50	50	50	50	202,400
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	50	51	50	51	675,400
Manila Electric Co. A	20	21.25	20	21.25	846,200
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	30.5	29.5	30.5	719,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9	8.9	8.9	3,383,000
Petron Corp.	4	4.1	4	4.1	4,019,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	250,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	150,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	15,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	26,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	37	35.5	37	884,100
RFM Corp.	0.88	0.95	0.88	0.95	650,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.6	674,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65.5	64.5	65.5	226,600
San Miguel Corp. B	76	77.5	76	77.5	101,700
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	9,800
Universal Robina Corp.	20.5	20.5	19.75	20	5,782,500
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.32	0.33	0.3	0.31	4,700,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.92	1,622,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.5	5.9	5.4	5.7	7,416,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	23,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.6	1.66	1.58	1.58	393,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat, Inc.	4.7	5.3	4.7	4.85	4,248,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.58	0.59	46,460,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.135	0.15	0.135	0.15	5,050,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	170,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	172,000,000
Ayala Corp.	452.5	475	452.5	472.5	337,800
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	1,146,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.16	2.08	2.16	1,504,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	3,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	150,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.85	3	2.8	3	181,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	52,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.28	1.34	1.28	1.34	15,383,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.85	4	3.85	4	1,431,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.65	2.75	2.65	2.75	4,643,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,330,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.8	2,053,000
Keppel Holdings B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
Medco Holdings	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	40,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.18	1.6	1.12	1.6	15,974,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	17,200,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	90,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	150,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.13	3,540,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	257.5	252.5	257.5	333,010
South China Resources Inc.	0.92	0.95	0.92	0.95	140,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	11,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14.25	14	14.25	11,541,400
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	2,833,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	1.02	1.1	1	1.06	1,629,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	3,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	2.75	3	2.75	3	940,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	78,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	9,720,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings, Inc.	1.26	1.3	1.22	1.26	2,470,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0575	0.0575	0.05	0.05	5,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	23,510,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	250,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	9,540,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.69	0.69	4,370,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	900,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.88	1.94	1.86	1.94	33,829,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.3	3.35	3.25	3.35	287,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.165	250,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.34	1.5	1.34	1.5	150,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	12.5	14	12.5	14	23,929,400
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	4,390,000
SM Development Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	525,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.6	8.7	8.5	8.7	3,717,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	40,000
Uniwide Holdings, Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	700,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17.5	17	17.5	117,900
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Information Capital Tech.	4.2	5	4.2	4.8	246,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.34	1.38	1.34	1.36	28,163,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1060	1155	1060	1155	62,910
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.55	4.8	4.55	4.8	4,390,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2165	2225	2165	2225	80,230
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	2,000,000
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	5,500,000
Ionics Inc.	2	2.04	2	2	147,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	200,000
Philweb Corp	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	123,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.6	3.6	442,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	142,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	116,500
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.98	2	1.98	1.98	861,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	690,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	38,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.04	2.04	2	2	450,000
Paxys Inc.	11.75	12.25	11.75	12.25	948,700
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6	6.1	6	6.1	2,467,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	978,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	82,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.7	8	7.7	8	594,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.7	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.245	0.23	0.24	2,130,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.27	1,080,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	451,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	266,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	129,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.5	3.65	3.45	3.6	4,812,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	19	19.25	19	19	286,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	470,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.56	150,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	830,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	25,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	110,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	340,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.2	9.5	9.2	9.4	70,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	103	103	103	20,000
Als Corp. - Preferred	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	35,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series C	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	4,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	1,800
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	17	17.25	17	17.25	38,000

CURRENCIES

October 5, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.786411	1.000000	49.9850
Japan	Yen	0.006670	0.008482	0.4240
United Kingdom	Pound	1.483485	1.886400	94.2917
Hongkong	Dollar	0.100926	0.128338	6.4150
Switzerland	Franc	0.629834	0.800897	40.0328
Canada	Dollar	0.697853	0.887390	44.3562
Singapore	Dollar	0.496471	0.631313	31.5562
Australia	Dollar	0.584518	0.743273	37.1525
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.086081	2.652661	132.5933
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209682	0.266631	13.3276
Brunei	Dollar	0.494910	0.629327	31.4569
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000109	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020926	0.026610	1.3301
UAE	Dirham	0.214123	0.272279	13.6099
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.271600	63.5609
Argentina	Peso	0.253272	0.322061	16.0982
Brazil	Real	0.362418	0.460851	23.0356
Denmark	Kroner	0.134149	0.170584	8.5266
India	Rupee	0.017227	0.021906	1.0950
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213120	0.271003	13.5461
Mexico	New Peso	0.071505	0.090926	4.5449
New Zealand	Dollar	0.520147	0.661419	33.0610
South Africa	Rand	0.098907	0.125770	6.2866
Korea	Won	0.000829	0.001054	0.0527
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023766	0.030221	1.5106



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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Make yourself heard above the noise

With a little creativity, ad messages can stand out

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THESE DAYS, COMPANIES WHO want their messages to be heard loud and clear must shout really loud to be heard above the din.

This helps explain the proliferation of practically the same "buy me" advertising messages on billboards, television, radio, print, malls and schools.

Even waiting sheds, jeepneys and the food carts were not spared from the advertising onslaught.

But consumers are getting tired of seeing the same kind of advertisements. They can hardly tell one from the other.

The key messages that the companies want to impart have somehow been lost in the clutter.

This means that with just a little more creativity, advertising messages can easily stand out from the rest.

Marketing managers know this only too well, thus the frenzied attempts to squeeze their creative juices.

Philippine Association of National Advertisers president Blen Fernando says marketing professionals are forced to be more creative or at least different from the others because advertising and promotions budgets are getting smaller, while the cost of doing business continues to go up.

Fernando also says that Filipino buyers today are generally young, fickle and difficult to penetrate, with one of five below 20 years old. Many of them are into fashion, sports and music.

"They have a short attention span and get easily tired of seeing the same things all the time. Here a marketer needs to work fast, seize the moment and be ready for the next trend," Fernando says.

Competition, she says, has never been more fierce.

"Everything competes with everything else. Share of wallet. Share of stomach. Share of throat. It was simpler before when competition was seen only within the same category. Who would have thought that pre-paid cards would compete with burgers?" Fernando says.

However, coming up with pretty print advertisements and instantly appealing television spots is just one part of the creative equation.

Fernando says that marketing creativity refers to the entire process of drumming up demand for a product or service.

"Creativity does not mean just being able to conceptualize or lead the development of advertising campaigns. Creativity in marketing is encompassing, it involves being able to address issues or concerns using different approaches in creating demand for a new product," she says.

"Being creative means being able to make excellent integrated programs even within a limited budget, at the fastest possible time," she adds.

Advertising and marketing industry practitioners can get more insights into these trends during the 2006 Pana Marketing and Brand Advancement Series that will conclude today at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City.

Unilever communications media manager Ed Sunico says the 2006 MBA Series entitled "Creativity Unleashed" will help educate young marketing professionals on the practical side of marketing and management.

"The program is ideal for our colleagues that are fresh from the academe or are just starting out in their marketing careers. The Pana MBA will allow them to see marketing "in current practice" delivered by the marketers of the most successful campaigns in recent past," Sunico says.

Sunico says that creativity is not the monopoly of a select few "creative" people.

"Creativity Unleashed intends to break this perception. It aims to educate participants on how to use creativity as a competitive advantage," says Sunico, Pana conference chair.

Condo-mania: Tax travails of buying a condo

TAX-FILES

By Rommel R. Ramos and Jose A. Osana
SGV & Co.

WITH THE UNCONTROLLED congestion of the Metropolis and the inconvenience of travel to far-off suburbia, the lure of high-rise living has become a tempting proposition. And condos are now on top of everyone's wish list. Whether one's budget is good for a swanky loft or studio unit, the sales truism of caveat emptor or let the buyer beware has to be taken in mind.

Though still catering to middle to upper income earners, condominium projects are a dime-a-dozen nowadays. With well-thought out advertising strategies, real estate developers continue to expand their target markets. Sales agents are everywhere with their flyers and the huge billboards promising paradise for those who can afford. Sometimes calling to inquire about one property could lead to a gazillion other alternatives.

Second-hand condos, on the other hand, are usually found in the classified ads section of our favorite newspaper, or are posted in buy-and-sell ads on the Internet.

Other than saving up for the down payment and sweating out the monthly amortizations, what must the buyer remember when buying a condo?

Taxes, of course.

Upon expressing the desire for a condo unit in a brand new development, a prospective buyer is presented by the real estate developer's agent with the specifications of the unit itself. The agent then furnishes the prospective buyer with a quotation of the selling price, itemizing therein the components payable by the prospective buyer such as the net selling price and the taxes. With such a breakdown, the prospective buyer is informed of the taxes and the corresponding rates he would have to pay if he does decide to purchase the condo unit.

When it comes to second hand condo units, the specifications as well as the price are usually provided in the ads themselves. The difference lies in the fact that unless actually inquired into, the prospective buyer is not provided with a breakdown of the selling price and the taxes involved in the purchase.

It is easy to be lured by attractive advertisements and the promises of convenience. But we should be wary not only of false promises, but also of overlooking whether we are indeed paying the correct taxes and their correct rates.

So, before we hop on to the condo bandwagon, we should study the following checklist of taxes generally involved in condominium purchases, as well as their corresponding rates:

1. The 12 percent value-added tax (VAT). VAT is payable if the purchase is from a real estate developer. This is because according to our Tax Code, the sale of real properties held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of trade or business of the seller shall be subject to VAT.

But the fact that the seller is the one stated by the law as the person liable to pay the VAT, the law also says that VAT is an indirect tax which may be transferred to the buyer. VAT is based on the gross selling price (GSP) or current fair market value (FMV) of the said condo (whichever is higher).

2. The 6-percent capital gains tax (CGT). CGT is payable if the condo to be purchased is second-hand. CGT is likewise based on the GSP or FMV of the said condo (whichever is higher), and is usually payable by the owner since it is his gain that is being taxed.

There are three common scenarios when it comes to CGT liability. The ideal scenario is that the selling price as advertised does not include the CGT, and the owner takes care of the CGT payment without the intervention of the buyer. In some cases, the CGT is included in the selling price of the condo as advertised (GSP or FMV + CGT = price advertised), thus effectively passing the burden of payment on the buyer.

In other cases, however, the selling price advertised is that which the buyer would want to receive net of all taxes that would have to be paid. This means that the buyer should shoulder the CGT, among other taxes and/or expenses. To prevent undue confusion between the parties to the transaction, it is recommended that they first discuss who should shoulder the CGT.

3. One and a half percent documentary stamp tax (DST). DST is imposed on conveyances of real property (condo units, in this case) at the rate of P15 for every P1,000 (or 1.5 percent, for easy computation) of the consideration or value received for such property. DST is applicable whether the sale concerns a brand new condo unit (sold by a real estate developer) or a second-hand unit (sold by a broker or the owner), and is also usually payable by the seller. Like CGT, the party liable therefore may also be previously agreed upon by the parties.

4. Fifty to 75 percent of one percent local transfer tax (LTT). With respect to the transfer of real property, the LTT thereof shall not be more than 50 percent of one percent if the condo unit is located in a municipality, or 75 percent of one percent if located in a city, of the GSP involved in the acquisition of the condo unit or the FMV, whichever is higher. The LTT is usually shouldered by the buyer, and is likewise payable whether the condo unit is brand new or second-hand.

5. Registration fees (to Register of Deeds). Registration fees vary depending on locality. It is safe to assume, however, that said fees range from 0.25 percent to 0.50 percent of the selling price or assessed value of the condo unit, whichever is higher. Registration fees are usually paid by the buyer.

Every time we deal with real estate developers, real estate brokers or condo owners, we should keep in mind the above list and keep on hand our trusty calculator. It pays to be informed, especially if taxes are in issue.

Know and protect your Intellectual Property Rights

FILIPINOS ARE KNOWN FOR BEING creative and ingenious. The country has been producing good music, books, artworks, as well as innovative inventions in science and technology. Each of these creations belongs to a certain author or inventor.

However, getting hold of total ownership for creations and inventions requires certain responsibility on the author or creator's side.

It's not enough that you are gifted with intellect and talent. It is your responsibility to know how to protect the product of your intellect. You have the right to enjoy and make full use of your creations as well as the right to share your creations.

There's a law to protect your Intellectual Property Rights—the Republic Act No. 8293—known as the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.

Creation of the intellect

Intellectual Property is any creation of the human mind or intellect. It can be an original or derivative literary and artistic works (e.g. music, movie, books, paintings, etc.). It can also be an invention or industry properties (e.g. medicine, layout, etc.)

Literary and artistic works and related rights of performers, producers, and broadcasters are covered by the copyright. On the other hand, industrial property rights include patents, utility models, industrial designs, trademarks, service marks and geographic indications, layout designs of integrated circuits, and undisclosed information or trade secrets.

For example, if you're a writer and you've published a book, the moment you've created a book, you automatically get the full right to reproduce, communicate, alter, abridge, translate, distribute or rent out your work.

No registration needed

There's no registration needed with copyright however it is required that copies of the copyrighted material be deposited at the National Library or Supreme Court.

On the other hand, if you're a scientists or inventor, you must be discreet in filing your application for industrial property right. The game is not a matter of who was the first to invent but rather who was the first to file the application.

If you're able to protect your Intellectual Property Rights, you help your industry grow and become competitive. By registering your intellectual property, you can earn great financial compensation and global recognition just like Roberto del Rosario. Because of his prudence to have his invention—the Sing-Along-System—patented, he won the rights over his invention when another company tried to copy his product.

To know more about your Intellectual Property Rights, log on to www.ipophil.gov.ph.

Trade shows emerge as good marketing tools

COMPANIES WANTING to expand their market reach, whether locally or overseas, are finding international trade shows an effective way to hit their goals.

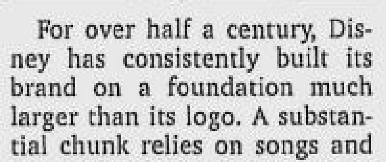
This is seen from the rise of world trade centers and exhibit halls around the globe, all catering to well-attended international marketing events and somehow contributing immensely to the globalization of the world economy.

Even governments are joining international trade shows to push the products and services of their respective countries.

For example, the Department of Tourism (DOT) participates in international travel trade events in Japan, Korea and other foreign markets to promote the Philippines as a tourist destination. This has had an impact on the unprecedented rise in foreign arrivals for more than two years now, from a record breaking 2.29 million in 2004 to over 2.6 million in 2005 and on the way to the three million target by 2006.

Trade shows as a proven vehicle for market development has created long-running annual international expositions such as Agrilink, Foodlink and Aqualink, the country's biggest and most prestigious annual international trade show on agribusiness, food and aquaculture. Agrilink will be held on October 5-7 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. It is the country's premier agribusiness event.

Absolut branded language



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

WE'VE GOT A TREAT FOR YOU! MarketingRx will continue to host Martin Lindstrom, the hottest and youngest brand guru today, for the next four columns. Lindstorm, the best-selling author of "Brand Sense," sits on several boards globally, and consults for companies like Disney, Mars, Pepsi, American Express, Mercedes-Benz, Reuters, McDonald's, Kellogg's, Yellow Pages and Microsoft. Lindstrom was the global COO for British Telecom/LookSmart, an executive at BBDO, the founder and CEO of BBDO Interactive Asia, and co-founder of BBDO Interactive Europe, both of which grew to become their region's largest Internet solution company. Lindstrom will be a featured speaker, along with brand gurus David Aaker, Jack Trout and Faith Popcorn, at the Global Brand Forum (www.globalbrandforum.org) in Singapore this November.

Here's Lindstrom on establishing your own "branded language."

Disney, Kellogg's and Gillette are three completely different brands with one commonality. Over the past decade, they've established a branded language, whether they know it or not. In my latest book, we found 74 percent of today's consumers associate the word "crunch" with Kellogg's. Another 59 percent consider the word "masculine" and Gillette as one and the same. Americans formed the strongest association of masculinity to Gillette, by an astounding 84 percent.

Disney scored higher in purloined language than any other brand. This brand welcomes you to its kingdom of fantasy, dreams, promises and magic. If you've stayed at a Disney resort, taken a Disney cruise, or eaten in a Disney restaurant, it doesn't take long to hear "cast members" greeting guests with, "Have a magical day!"

For over half a century, Disney has consistently built its brand on a foundation much larger than its logo. A substantial chunk relies on songs and voice overs that almost always include Disney-branded words. Associating words with brands comes at no extra cost. Disney manages to "own" six of them: "dreams," "creativity, "fantasy," "smiles," "magic" and "generation."

Creating 'smashable' brands

Our BRAND sense study shows over 80 percent of the world's population directly associates these generic words with Disney.

The keywords are repeated over and over in Disney's advertising copy, song lyrics, and story lines and on Disney Channel. The words cross all media channels, from TV to the Internet, with ease and fluidity. No opportunity is wasted in making strong connections between Disney and "magic," Disney and "fantasy," Disney and "dreams," and so on.

What's more, Disney's language survives what I call the smash test. Pick a word, sentence, or column from any Disney publication, remove each brand reference, and—voilà!—the brand's still recognizable.

To create a truly smashable brand requires consistency and patience. This is difficult, in a corporate world where the only constant is ever-changing branding strategies and CMOs. Add to this a fluctuating financial market that demands instant results, and the brand message becomes just another bit of brand information in an overcrowded field. With annual reports, TV commercials, and websites often handled by different divisions, you loose any opportunity for language synergy.

It takes years for words, phrases, and sentences to be identified and accepted as belonging to specific brands.

Words and brand personality

The first step to integrate specific language into your brand is to identify the words you want to own. Select them based on those words that best reflect your brand's personality. Choose words that are easy to integrate in many different kinds of sentences and are the most flexible.

There's no mistaking Absolut Vodka's language. Its "Absolut Home" page lets you jump to "Absolut Reality," "Absolut Pictures," "Absolut Generations," and other "Absolut" destinations. Should you wish to contact the company, go to "Absolut Contact." Everything on the site is consistent with Absolut's advertising campaign, which has been running for over 20 years. The campaign's based on continuity and variety; 1,400 ads have been produced since 1980, all related to the original vision that launched Absolut Perfection.

The key to forming a smashable language is to integrate it into every piece of communication your company is responsible for, including all internal communications.

Evaluate your branded language, and determine the words you would like to own. It costs nothing and might lead to free advertising in your national dictionary.

If you have any questions for Martin Lindstrom or the rest of the Global Brand Forum (GBF) faculty made up of Jack Trout, Faith Popcorn and David Aaker, just email them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net For more info on the GBF visit www.globalbrandforum.org God bless!

Neda OKs ₱911M worth of projects in Mindanao

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND Development Authority board has approved the implementation of P911.15 million worth of programs that seek to address problems on malnutrition, infant and maternal mortality, and poverty in Mindanao.

The programs include the following: Food for Work; Food for Education for Elementary School Students and Children in Day Care Centers Aged 3-5 Years; Mother-Child Nutrition (MCN) Program for Children Under Two Years and for Pregnant and Lactating Women; Food-for-Training Program; Food for Tuberculosis Patients Under Treatment; Reintegration of Ex-Combatants and/or Demobilized Combatants and Social Preparation and Capacity-Building.

The provinces covered by the programs, according to the Neda, were Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat in Central Mindanao, and in Lanao del Norte in Northern Mindanao.

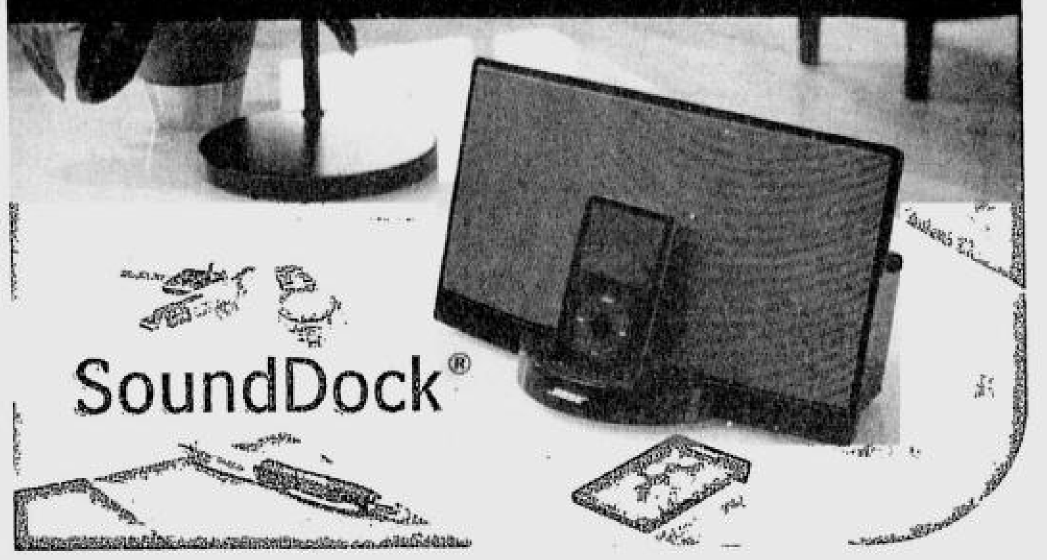
Of the total cost of the programs, the United Nations' World Food Program will finance the bulk of P837.38 million. The national government will contribute P26.82 million, while local government units in the concerned areas and other donor agencies will chip in P46.95 million.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development will be the implementing agency of these programs. The municipalities that will serve as the recipients of the financial assistance will be selected by the DSWD.

The fund from the UN World Food Program will come in the form of assistance. This will be on top of the funds set aside by foreign donors for Mindanao's social and economic development programs.

Earlier, the United States Agency for International Development earlier said it had earmarked $41 million in assistance for Mindanao. The amount forms part of the $70 million worth of assistance that the donor agency had pledged to extend to the Philippines.

THE BEAUTY OF BLACK



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Prudentialife in 2006 GK Expo

THE POWER OF WE
GAWAD KALINGA EXPO 2006

Gawad Kalinga has become a symbol of Filipino heroism. To showcase this, Gawad Kalinga is spearheading the GK Global Expo 2006: The Power of We at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City (October 6-8, 2006) with its major partners from the different sectors in a shared goal for integrated and holistic community development work. Prudentialife, a leading pre-need and financial services company with 28 years of corporate social responsibility tradition, joins Gawad Kalinga in this historic event.

In 2004, Prudentialife turned over 50 houses to Gawad Kalinga (GK) which now benefits 48 families at the Prudentialife GK Village in Baseco, Tondo. A year later, two houses were converted into a learning center supported by dedicated volunteer teachers. Today, 40 children are growing with quality pre-school education to become responsible adults and citizens.

In 2006, Prudentialife launched its corporate advertising campaign with the theme, "Buhay ang Pag-asa" which inspired the PAGASA project in partnership with GK and the Couples for Christ Education Foundation, Inc. (CFC-EFI)

The PAGASA Project. With the theme "Sa Prudentialife, Buhay ang Pag-asa", the campaign embedded a unique CSR concept centering on education - the Prudentialife-GK PAGASA project. The Prudentialife-GK PAGASA stands for PAaral, GAwad and SAgip and is a significant step in sustainable community development for the Prudentialife-GK Village in Baseco. The JATA Sibol School at the Prudentialife Village in Baseco serves as the project pilot center.

PAARAL-BAHAY KARUNUNGAN (PBK). A Reading Center at the heart of the community where people can read, borrow/return books, host book clubs, receive training from reading/literacy specialists. It also serves as a venue for one to one sessions on basic literacy and Non Formal Education especially children (ages 3-15).

GAWAD BAYANING GURO (GBG). The SIBOL school teachers in each GK village are the unsung heroes behind the GK pre-school program. As part of the Prudentialife-GK PAGASA project, the efforts of these unsung heroes will be recognized for the first time with the Gawad Bayaning Guro (GBG) Award at the GK Expo on October 7, 2006 during the "panGKabalaan" Community based learning program at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

The CFC-EFI which is the educational arm of GK that oversees the SIBOL program selected the top 3 outstanding national SIBOL teachers and 10 excellent SIBOL teachers from the different GK villages nationwide Appreciation plaques and cash prizes will be awarded by Prudentialife Founder and Chairman, Amb. Francisco A. Alba and President Jose Alberto T. Alba.

SAGIP BALIK ESKWELA (SBE). To address the needs of the growing number of out-of-school youth (15 & above), Couples for Christ-Educational Foundation, Inc. aims to help adults through a literacy program that gives elementary and secondary certification to adults which is equivalent to an elementary and high school diploma. Prudentialife is committed to pursue the PAGASA efforts and other educational thrusts to support its shelter program in partnership with Gawad Kalinga.

"Buhay ang Pag-asa" Floral Painting Exhibit. As a feature of the GK Global Expo 2006, Prudentialife will unveil a floral painting exhibit with the works of Filipina impressionist – Via Castro who captures in her floral paintings, Prudentialife and GK's message of hope under the theme "Buhay Ang Pag-asa." The subject of flowers was chosen as it brings happiness, cheerfulness and life everywhere. Flowers are God's gift where everyone can find joy, encouragement and hope. The wonderful mixture of happy colors on the paintings help to remind us that Hope is alive every morning. The painting exhibit will be at the Premiere Theater of SM Mall of Asia October 7, 2006. The proceeds of the floral paintings will be for the benefit of the JATA Sibol School at the Prudentialife-GK Village in Baseco, Tondo, Manila.

8th Children's Rosary Rally

Building a community of Love & Peace

Today, children from the GAWAD KALINGA SIBOL Schools in the Archdiocese of Manila will gather together for the 8th Children's Rosary Rally at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life in Pasay City from 8:30 am to 12:00 nn. They will be joined by around 15,000 children from over 250 provincial GK schools and other children with their bishops, priests, parents, and teachers in their respective parishes nationwide to simultaneously pray the Holy Rosary and celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

This year, the 8th Children's Rosary Rally highlights the celebration of the Year of Social Concerns as declared by the CBCP Episcopal Conference.

Watch the "Building a Community of Love and Peace" TV Special on ANC on October 7 (8:30-9:00AM) and October 8 (11:30PM-12:00MN).

Archdiocese of Manila
CHILDREN'S ROSARY MOVEMENT
FAMILY ROSARY CRUSADE
GAWAD KALINGA
COUPLES FOR CHRIST
Prudentialife

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
TOYOTA TSUSHO CORP 5/F Allied Bank Center, Ayala Ave. Makati City	Takashi Mori	General Manager of Chemical Department
BELL'S GOLF SARANGBAE TRAVEL, INC. G/F Zen Building, #647 J. Nakpil St. Malate, Manila	Je Hong Juen	Consultant
EDUCONNECTION INTERNATIONAL, INC. 19-B Trafalgar Plaza H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Byung Hoon Lee	Director & Senior Manager
EAGLE'S FORTUNE, INCORPORATED 625 Barcelona St., Tondo, Manila	Mingya Wang	Supervisor
SIEMENS, INC. 17/F Salcedo Tower 169 H.V. Dela Costa St. Salcedo Village, Makati City	Scott Patrick Martin	Division Head, SBS Service Desk Manila
BHULLER & FRIENDS TRADING COMPANY 32-C F. Benitez St., San Juan Metro Manila	Sandeep Kaur	Assistant Manager
BHULLER & FRIENDS TRADING COMPANY 32-C F. Benitez St., San Juan Metro Manila	Harmandeep Kaur Mann	Assistant Finance Manager
ORIPHINO IND CORP. 2E Acacia, Westmont Village Dr. A. Santos Ave., San Isidro Parañaque City	Yoshikazu Shindo	President and Chairman
SHRI-BAWA-HUKAM-LAL-JI SAHIB LENDING CORPORATION 10 Jade St., Silberland Subd. Diliman, Quezon City	Kamaljit Kaur	Finance Officer
EAGLES FORTUNE, INCORPORATED 625 Barcelona St., Tondo, Manila	Shaoxiong Lin	Manager
HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORP. The Enterprise Center, Tower 1 6766 Ayala Ave., cor. Paseo de Roxas Makati City	Aditya Sapru	Vice President Commercial Banking II
HSBC ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING (PHILS.), INC. 5150 North Bridgeway, Northgate Cyberzone Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Priya Khanna	Manager-Operations

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Oct. 6, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

10 pcs. of ¼" x 2500# Solenoid Valves under FGJ 61054
Approved Budget: PHP 2,800,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **October 6, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **October 13, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time)** of **October 27, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II

(PDI--Oct. 6, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Bldg. 5, Ground Floor Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5388

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

PR Number	Description	Approved Budget
PR- 602928	3,500 pieces Executive Jacket	PHP 2,100,000.00
PR- 602930	250 pieces Travel Bag B	PHP 350,000.00
PR- 602931	250 pieces Travel Bag A	PHP 350,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Cielo B. de Castro** starting **October 3, 2006** from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **October 10, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Office Wall Clock Time)** of October 20, 2006. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

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Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II

(PDI--October 6, 2006)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Merrit Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 Fax No. 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Appraisal of PNOC-EDC's Assets

The approved budget is **PhP7,890,000.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is **two (2) years.**

Application forms for eligibility and bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o **Gino Nicolo F. Cueno**) starting **October 6, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Three Hundred (PhP 300.00)**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **October 13, 2006, 10:00 a.m.** at the BAC Room, 1st Floor, PNOC-EDC Building V

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, 1st Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time)** of **October 26, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

Note: PNOC-EDC cashier is open Monday to Friday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 NN and 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI--Oct. 6, 2006)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Merrit Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 Fax No. 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Supply of Labor, Equipment, and Materials for the Fabrication of 24-Inch-Diameter Mixing Spool

The approved budget is **PhP2,400,000.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is **ninety (90) days**

Application forms for eligibility and bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o **Gino Nicolo F. Cueno**) starting **October 6, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: One Thousand (PhP 1,000.00)**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **October 12, 2006, 10:00 a.m.** at the BAC Room, 1st Floor, PNOC-EDC Building V

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, 1st Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time)** of **October 25, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

Note: PNOC-EDC cashier is open Monday to Friday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 NN and 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI--Oct. 6, 2006)

NOTICE

Please take notice that the Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the change in the corporate name of CENTRAL AZUCARERA DE LA CARLOTA to CADP GROUP CORPORATION on January 15, 2003.

FLORENCIO M. MAMAUAG, JR.
VP Legal & Asst. Corporate Secretary

(PDI–October 6 & 13, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that MCCI CORPORATION Stock Certificates No. C4938 for 986 shares and No. C5386 for 591 shares issued to Esmeraldo C Roque, Jr. have been lost. If no contest is received on or before October 13, 2007, new certificates will be issued in lieu of the lost ones.

(PDI–Sept. 29, Oct. 6 & 13, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITION

In Compliance with RA 7041

BUREAU OF RESIDENT OMBUDSMAN

CLERK III - SG 6
Item No. OMBA-CK3-2-1998

Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility

Applicants should submit within ten (10) calendar days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1" x 1" picture (colored)
4) * Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) * Transcript of Records;
6) * Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7) * Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) * Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

*Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies

---

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Public Estates Authority)
7/F Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg., 107 Paseo de Roxas St.,
Legaspi Village, 1226 City of Makati
Tel. Nos. (02) 817-4711 to 13; (02) 813-1441 to 45;
Facsimile No. (02) 815-2662
Website: www.pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO REBID

PURCHASE OF SIX (6) MOTOR VEHICLES (06-004)

1. The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its corporate budget intends to apply the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) the sum of **Five Million One Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,155,000.00)**, inclusive of VAT, to payments under the contract for Six (6) Motor Vehicles. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PRA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for One (1) Pick-up Type Vehicle and Five (5) Passenger Wagon Type Vehicles. The delivery of GOODS is required within ten (10) days after issuance of Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Annex A of the Bid Data Sheet (BDS).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents starting October 5, 2006 from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from October 6 to 16, 2006 by interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand One Hundred Fifty Five Pesos (Php 5,155.00). The method of payment will be cash or check payable to PRA. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PRA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 13, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the PRA Office on or before October 26, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the BDS. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on October 26, 2006 at 10:15 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Prospective Bidders should have undertaken a project or contract within the last two (2) years with the same kind and contract price, and should have key personnel and services / equipment available for the prosecution of the project.
10. Pursuant to BIR Revenue Regulations 03-2005, all prospective bidders are mandated to file their income and business tax returns electronically using the Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS).
11. The PRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.
12. The PRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd) JOSEFINA L. CASTRO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – October 6 & 12, 2006)

NOTICE

Please take notice that the Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the change in the corporate name of CENTRAL AZUCARERA DON PEDRO to ROXAS HOLDINGS, INC. on December 11, 2001.

FLORENCIO M. MAMAUAG, JR.
VP Legal & Asst. Corporate Secretary

(PDI - October 6 & 13, 2006)

WANTED

Media Production Staff

1. Writer
2. Production Assistant

We Prefer Newly Graduates

Mass Communication & B.S. Marketing
For more information please contact Ivy & Jon
Tel. no. 09183432167, 09274044342 or 706-0610

ERRATUM

In the *Bulletin of Vacant Positions* of **OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN** published on October 5, 2006 in this paper, the second position item no. under *Graft Investigation & Prosecution Officer I- SG 26 (Field Investigation Office)* should be read as **OMBA-GIO1-26-1998** instead of OMBA-GIO1-28-1998 as printed.

Our apologies.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Female LAWYER not more than 45 years old. Must work full-time. Must have experience in Labor case, Land disputes; Corporate cases ☎ 931-8950/52

BANK ACQUIRED ASSET FOR SALE

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Total Area: **532,933 sqm.**
(more or less, covered by 15 titles)

Indicative Price: **P10,733,383.92**
(The Indicative Selling Price covers only the 55.945% ownership/shares of the Bank on the property)

For inquiries, please call:
ASSET MANAGEMENT & DISPOSITION DIVISION
Tel Nos.: 811-9797

Offer to purchase are subject to Bank's approval
Prices are subject to change without prior notice to the publ.
Property is on "as is where is" basis

UCPB

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of **KYUDENKO – NEEDS CREATOR IT CORPORATION** shortening the term of its existence to up to September 4, 2006, thereby dissolving the said corporation on said date have been approved by a majority of its Board of Directors and by two-thirds (2/3) of the stockholders of said corporation.

All persons having claims against said corporation are requested to present same to its Head Office at the 6th Floor, Filipino Building, 135 dela Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City or Mr. Koichi Maki, Treasurer, No. 13 Love Street, Remanville Executive Village, Don Bosco, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City.

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO M. BATILLER, JR.**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–Oct. 6, 13 & 20, 2006)

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
More Classified Ad:
INSURANCE COMMISSION..................... A20

In Loving Memory
on the
SIXTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of

Salud S. Tesoro

Holy Masses will be offered today, October 6, 2006, at the following churches:

Mary the Queen Parish West Greenhills, San Juan, MM	6:00 A.M. 7:00 A.M. 6:00 P.M.
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish Ermita, Manila	8:00 A.M.
Immaculate Conception Parish Church Cubao, Q.C.	9:30 A.M.
Sto. Rosario Parish Church Makinabang, Baliwag, Bulacan	5:30 P.M.
Santuario de San Antonio Parish Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 P.M.
Tesoro's Penthouse 1325 A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila	6:30 P.M.

I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.
Luke 1:38

Dr. DOMINGO C. SALITA

Peacefully joined our Creator
on October 3, 2006 at the age of 90.

His loving wife **Luz Herrera**; children **Danny & Christy**, **Roland & Loida**, **Rico & Nina**, **Nelson & Gina**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (Claret) Memorial Chapels, Mahinhin St., UP Village, Quezon City. A Funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 8, 2006 at 7:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6

"I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH." *2 TIM 4:7*

PERFECTO "Pete/Pitong" CLUTARIO BORJA

Sorsogon City and Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord and his parents Macario and Cecilia on October 2, 2006 at the age of 74.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels at 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Mass of the Resurrection will be on Sunday, 8th of October 2006 at 9:00 a.m., Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Cremains will be interred at the Santuario de San Vicente De Paul

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS AND BANK-TO-BANK PAYMENTS

Thank You

We, the family of

Justice Conrado M. Vasquez, Sr.

(September 3, 1913 – September 19, 2006)

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEALS, 1973–1978
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, 1982–1983
FIRST OMBUDSMAN OF THE PHILIPPINES, 1988–1995

would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all those who have joined us in our times of bereavement and offered prayers, masses, sent flowers and assistance.

Your presence and prayers have helped us heal the pain of life's passage.

MOTHER ELIANE OF THE VIRGIN OF CARMEL, OCD
(Bella Bantug-Pinto)

of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija

Peacefully joined our Creator on October 5, 2006 at the age of 79.

Her sisters & brother: **Perla** (†), **Celso** (†) & **Jovita Pecache** (†), **Felicita** & **Amos Rojas** (†); her nephews & niece, **Dick** (†) & **Nette Pinto**, **Maricar** & **Ric Verde**, **Nonette** & **Ian Rojas**, **Ruel** & **Suzanne Rojas** & **Roland Rojas**.

Her body lies in state at the Carmel of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Chapel, #4 Gilmore Ave., QC. Viewing is from 8:00AM to 7:30PM.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 7, 2006 at the Cemetery inside the Enclosure of the Carmel of St. Therese after the 9:00 AM Mass at the Chapel.

Her family and her Mothers & Sisters of the Carmel of St. Therese of the Child Jesus request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

CLASSIFIEDS

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000: 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
44 Units ECCS Machine Plus: Four (4) Years Maintenance Services	P14,241,920.00	October 19, 2006 1:30 PM	November 8, 2006 1:00 PM	P 7,200.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting October 6, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes placed in single outer envelope and sealed accordingly in the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the LBP-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – October 6 & 13, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Cebu
COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

INVITATION TO BID

The City of Cebu, through its Committee on Awards invites individuals/corporations to bid for the disposal of a City-owned lot described as follows:

Lot No. : Lot 5, Block 16 of the consolidation-subdivision
Title No. : TCT-4158 Plan Pcs-07-01-000206
Area : 766.50 sq.m.
Location : North Reclamation Area

All bids must be accompanied by a bid bond in the form of cash or Manager's Check in an amount equivalent to twenty (20%) percent of the bid amount. Bidders bond of all losing bids shall be returned when the award is decided.

All particulars relative to the Bid Security, Evaluation of Bids and Awards shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of COA Circular 92-386, Rules and Regulations on Supply and Property Management in the Local Governments.

The schedule of activities is as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE	VENUE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI)	October 6-16, 2006	General Services Office
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 23-25, 2006	General Services Office
3. Pre-Bid Conference	October 27, 2006	General Services Office
4. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 7, 2006	General Services Office

The Committee on Awards will issue Bidding Documents to bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,000.00 to the Cebu City Cashier.

The City Government of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) TOMAS R. OSMEÑA
Chairman

(PDI - October 6 & 9, 2006)

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OCTOBERFEST!!!
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Half of firms violating tax laws

BIR cites lack of books, receipts

By Michelle V. Remo

HALF OF BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS VIOlate tax laws, according to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said before members of the Congressional Oversight Committee on Comprehensive Tax Reform that of the 49,225 business establishments checked by revenue personnel as of July, 24,656 or about half committed at least one violation of the tax code.

Violations include non-issuance of receipts, failure to keep books of accounts, non-registration of business and/or cash register machines, and failure to post BIR registration signs.

Buñag said 6,619 of the establishments checked by the BIR were not registered.

The visits to business establishments, such as those in malls and outdoor *tiangges*, are part of the BIR's Tax Mapping Verification Drive (TCVD), which is aimed at enhancing tax collection by catching tax delinquents.

The TCVD was born out of the revenue agency's struggle to meet its revenue collection target for the year of P675.4 billion.

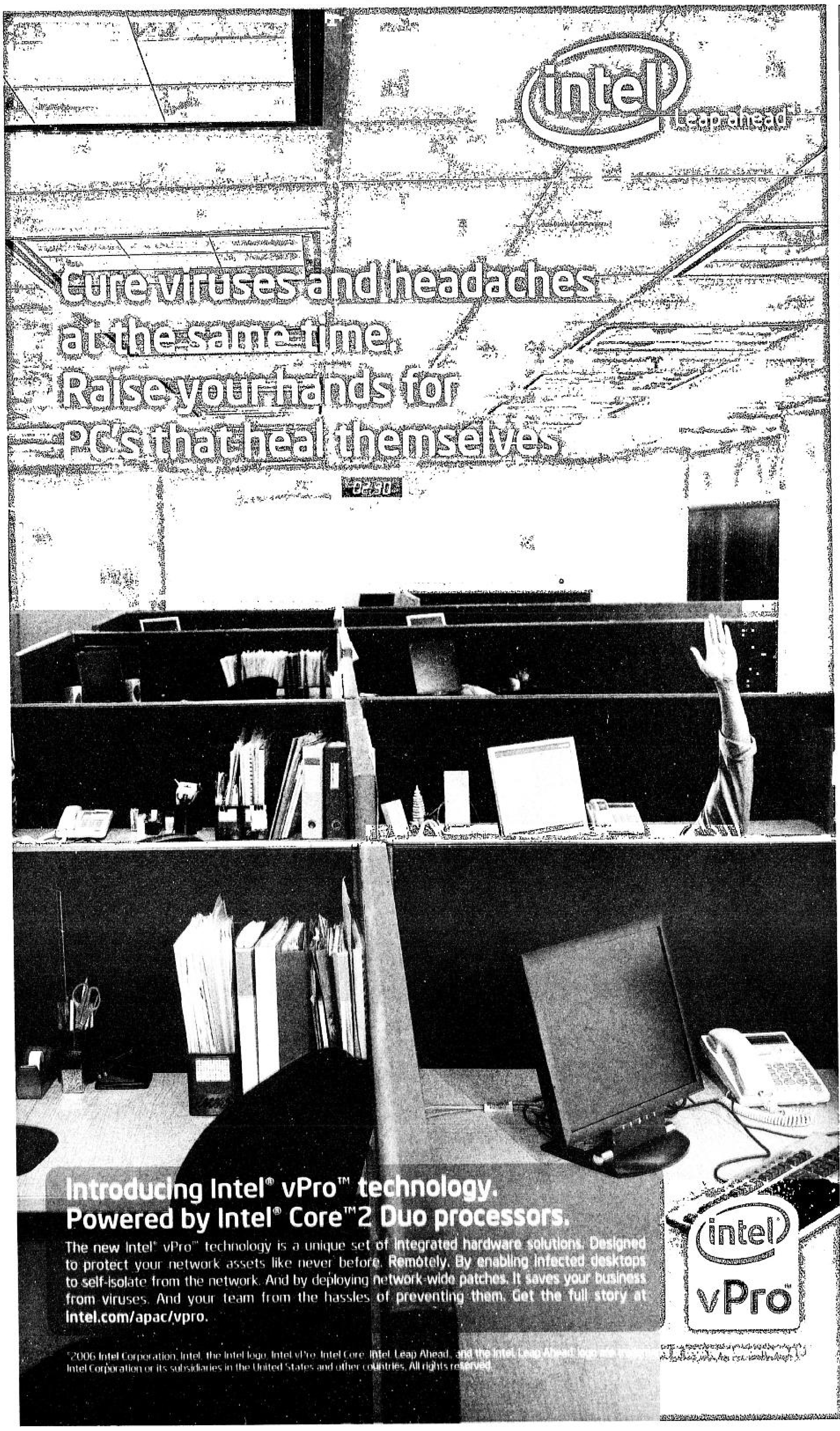
The BIR collected P438 billion in taxes as of August, P6.1 billion short of the P444.1-billion target for the period.

The BIR expects to uncover more violations as it visits at least 200,000 establishments this year.

Enhancing revenues through the TCVD is being implemented together with the settlement of tax delinquents' liabilities.

The BIR earlier issued Revenue Regulation No. 15-2006, under which the revenue agency offered to drop tax-related cases, and to collect only the principal tax liabilities.

The BIR said, however, that cases pending with the Presidential Commission on Good Government and those filed under the government's Run After Tax Evaders' (RATE) program were not covered by the compromise offer.



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Money in the Bank

By Zennon Kapron, Intel Asia Pacific Financial Services Vertical Industry Manager

Financial services companies are demanding smaller, faster, and smarter solutions. They are discovering that the same value points are addressed using new desktop technologies, without the infrastructure restrictions or inflexible structures that older, terminal-based systems impose. Better performance, better manageability and more security all help front-office staff perform their jobs - and deliver the responsiveness demanded by today's banking customers.

There has been a shift towards a more complete customer experience and convenience. In many banks, tellers are required to perform cross-selling activity at the window, without relying on a separate set of advisors for every sales opportunity. This new approach relies on staff being able to quickly access and analyze customer information. A teller needs a single source of truth when it comes to information on the customer's position and their financial lifecycle.

However, older terminals at many banks are unable to present a single window into customer data. A text-based terminal cannot provide prompts, flag new special offers to the teller, or suggest other products that fit the customer's profile.

A new breed of high performance PC's can now help tellers be more proactive. They can run a host of specifically-tailored marketing applications-ideal for on-the-spot up-selling or cross selling opportunities at the first point of customer contact.

Financial advisors in bank branches also benefit from highly specific yet compute-intensive applications similar to those used at capital markets firms. Financial advisors can now use these applications to increase customer visibility, improve cross-selling rates and increase wallet share.

High-performance desktop PC's also offer access to real-time customer views and account value positions. Using connected PCs, immediate access to information that can help bank staff seize short-term market opportunities and make best-case recommendations to their clients.

Financial services firms require tremendous amounts of computing resource to handle all transactions, local and international, demanded by a range of customers. The ability of high-power PCs to link into existing global networks provides a new range of flexibility and responsiveness, particularly for Internet banking and account management, which need constant customization to stay fresh. These channels demand the highest levels of security; a need that only technology can fulfill in today's complex business environments.

Customer responsiveness goes beyond front-end applications. Highly scalable infrastructures are required to efficiently connect the customer to the global financial industry. If a system can display multiple product offerings at the branch position, but cannot quickly access the data and decision support it needs, business opportunities vanish and customer satisfaction suffers.

Dual-core processor-based desktop PC's employ advanced management and security techniques that create an unprecedented combination of agility and capability. With this new breed of powerful desktops, staff can enjoy a responsive experience as they multitask across multiple demanding applications while bank security and management tasks continue to run in the background.

Secured transactions amounting to million of dollars and exposing confidential client data are transacted on a daily basis. Using new hardware platforms, software experts have collaborated with hardware R&D teams to solve security issues posed by desktop machines. Increased user access to the compute kernel requires extra vigilance.

Now, critical security applications can run in the background in a virtual partition while users are working on compute-intensive tasks within the standard operating system (OS) environment. This approach keeps vital security processes isolated from potential OS security compromises and ensures they are isolated from threats such as viral emails. Updates and security management can even be managed while the machine is powered down for maximum convenience and firewalled safety.

IT managers have already welcomed this new approach to security. It brings remote management techniques to the desktop that previously only existed on servers.

The New Solution

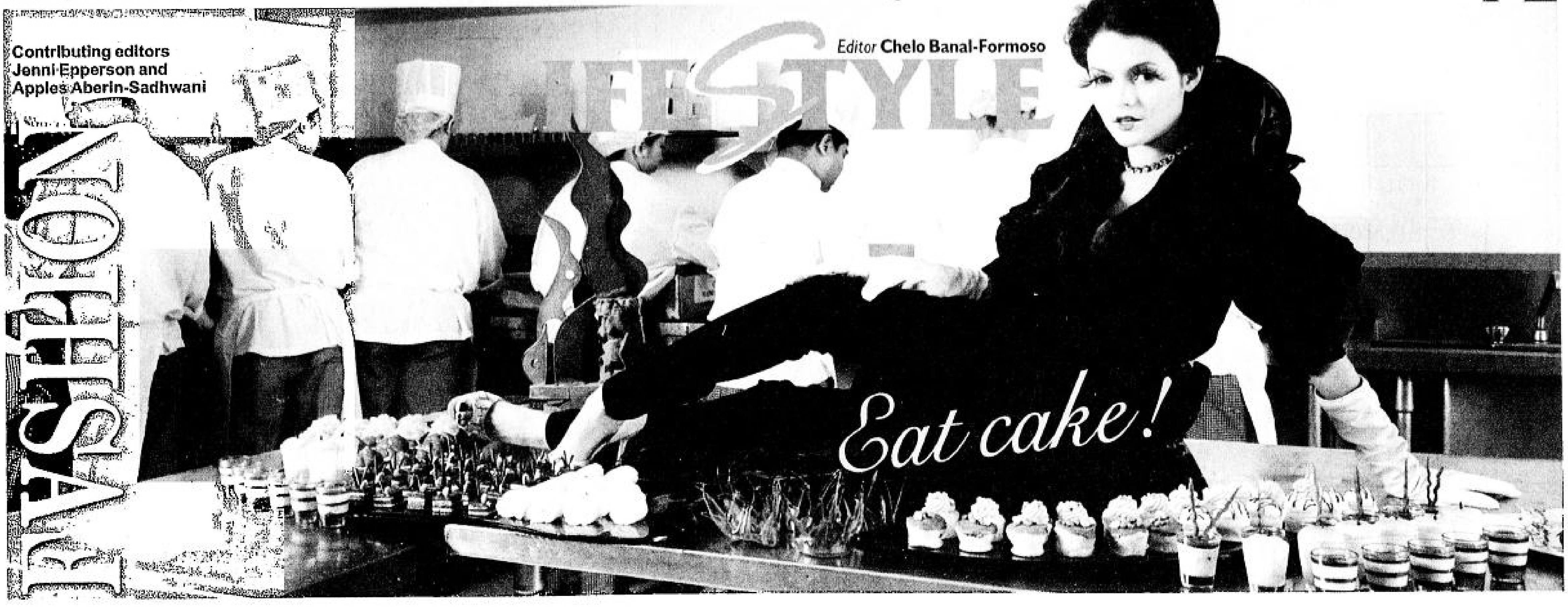
The new solution bringing relief to the financial services industry's highly varied demands are PCs with Intel® vPro™ technology. Provided on a coherent, standardized system, it includes manageability and proactive security features with the second-generation of Intel® Active Management Technology (Intel® AMT) built into the chipset, and Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT). Intel® VT is integrated into the new dual-core Intel® Core™2 Duo processor featured on every PC with Intel vPro technology.

These hardware innovations, when combined with industry software solutions, offer unprecedented manageability, security, and energy efficient performance together with reduced operating costs and increased user-level functionality. Intel AMT can even manage, inventory, diagnose, and repair PCs when they are turned off or experience OS or hard drive interruptions.

ADVT.

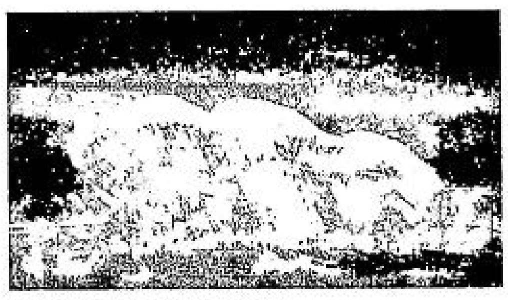
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Contributing editors
Jenni Epperson and
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani



FASHION BUZZ

Hot, haute, hot news!



LVMH cloud-like museum

Fashion's Guggenheim

INQUIRER FASHION BELIEVES IN AND espouses the marriage of art and fashion. We're all for collaborations between artists and designers or designer brands. We were thrilled when Japanese artist Takashi Murakami created the colorful, post-modern monogram for Louis Vuitton. We were even more excited when Stephen Sprouse created graffiti-print handbags for the same brand.

And now we are over the moon, so to speak, with news of yet another fashion /art connection. Bernard Arnault of Louis Vuitton has announced plans of establishing a US$127-million art foundation in Paris, to be housed in a structure designed by legendary architect Frank .Gehry, who also designed the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain.

LEGENDARY architect Frank Gehry and LVMH CEO Bernard Arnault

According to Arnault the 45,000-sq-ft museum will be more like a cloud than a building and will feature LVMH Moet Hennesy Louis Vuitton's extensive corporate art collection plus other exhibitions. "It's a foundation for contemporary creation, but rooted in the past... It will promote the cultural and artistic influence of France in the world," he said.

Construction starts next year and the doors of the much-awaited museum should open in 2009 or 2010.

Shop and save lives

tickled pink

TICKLED PINK event is a different kind of bazaar. It's shopping with a heart because the women behind the fundraising and shopping event intend to help those Filipino women with breast cancer and to arm these women—your sisters, girlfriends, mothers and grandmothers of this disease with information. Wear your pink on Oct. 14-15, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., at The Loft in Rockwell.

Within the light, cotton-candy atmosphere a few, select vendors of fashion items like Avatar jewelry available in Macy's and Bloomingdale's in the US and Bettina Osmeña's beautiful resin pieces, her other costume jewelry creations made with mostly local material are exported to the US, Paris, Spain, Belgium, Greece and Russia. Other vendors like Joan Pineda and Ria Prieto are introducing their products and other pink-ribbon paraphernalia for the first time.

For the ultimate fashionista, feast on designer clothes from Alberta Ferretti, Anna Molinari, Anna Sui, BCBG, Catherine Malandrino, Chloe, Diane Von Furstenberg, Emporio Armani, Issey Miyake, Kenzo, Marc

SHOP/ C3

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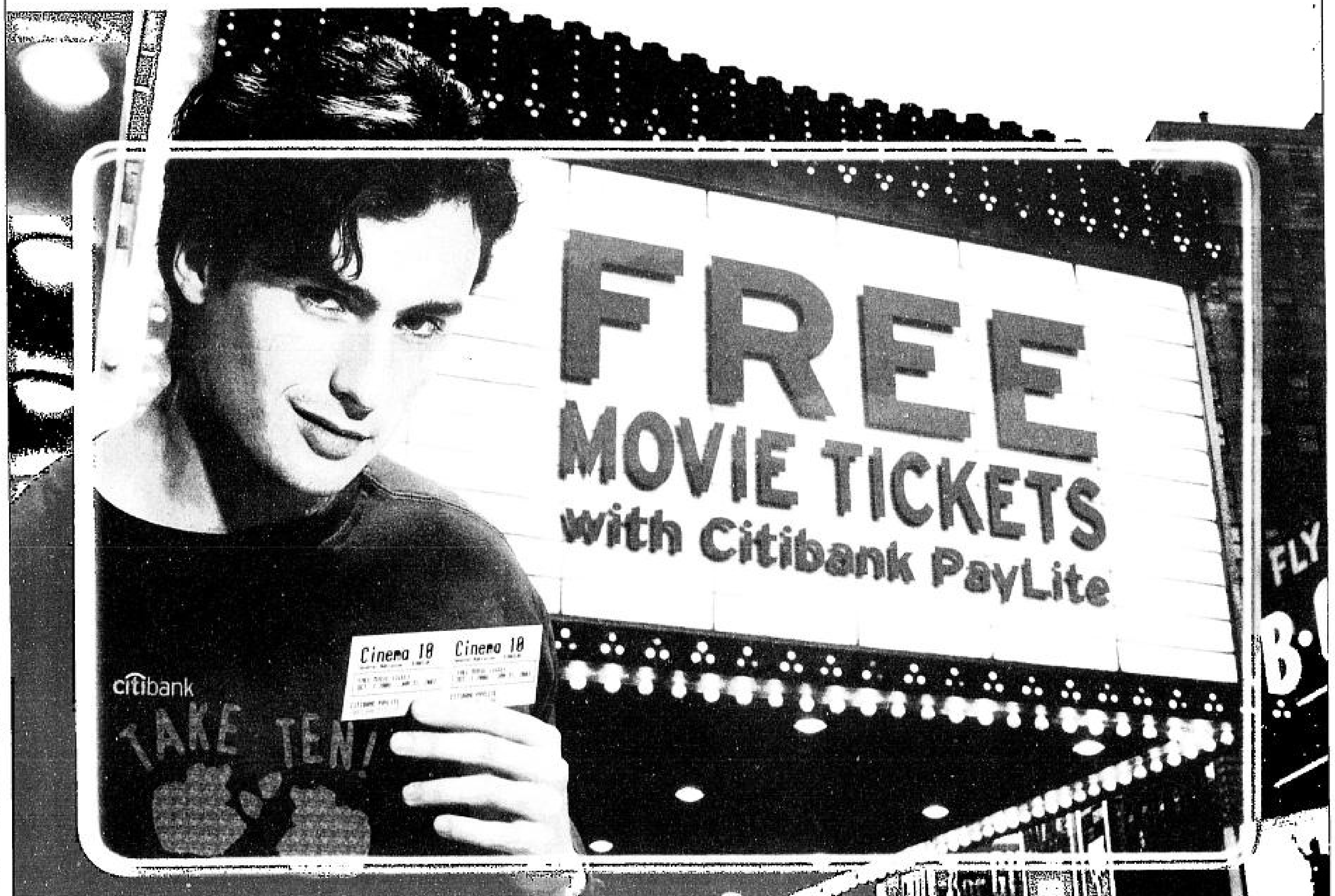

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Dennis Lustico has seen the light—in the dark

Noir confections

Mix master
ARANAZ bag

Makeup a recipe
WITH Makati Shangri-La's executive chef, Chris Romine

I T IS THE COLOR OF SHADOWS and silhouettes, of spaces and holes. In the universe of color, black is an enigma, a mystery, an irony even—for black is the starkest of all colors but it also implies absence or the lack of colors.

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

It is this challenge of creative contradiction, of being up against the so-called "black cliché," that Dennis Lustico takes on in his latest collection.

Why go black? "To spice things up," he said. Which is ironic, considering the infinite palette of colors one can easily dip into for instant variety and inventiveness.

The challenge was to create clothes with a feminine silhouette—call it a shadow play if you will. Lustico drew his inspiration from different, seemingly unrelated elements. He thought of the women of "Dynasty," particularly Joan Collins, who exemplified that put-together, glamorous excess that was never overindulgent.

He also contemplated the designs of Bedermeier furniture, which originated and developed in Germany during the first half of the 19th century, and was modeled after the French Empire styles.

Then there was the '80s itself, but not the style that was enamored with over-the-top gold and silver trimmings, but rather, the more restrained and disciplined school.

Rich, original

The outcome is a rich, truly original collection that romances the woman's silhouette. It is dramatic, yes, but not brooding. The beauty of it all is that since black is a favorite base color of most ensembles because of its ability to flatter the figure, the pieces are utterly unique and wearable.

The collection is a celebration of creativity in fashion architecture, as Lustico made use of ruffles, textures and pouffed sleeves as details on the shoulders.

High-waist skirts, asymmetric necklines, lace leggings and barrel skirts enhance the female shape.

To add texture, Lustico innovatively layered silk organdy, jersey, stretch tulle, satinized twill and horsehair.

Lustico described his latest collection in one word: "behaved."

But you'd think that all these regimented directives—black and behaved—would have stunted the collection's imagination. Not at all. In fact it is thoughtful and provocative, like a film noir that leaves you in suspense all throughout.

It was a three-month journey of creation, which Lustico described as a struggle between the romantic style and the discipline of architecture.

In fact, Lustico originally conceptualized a punk-rock collection, yet eventually designed an altogether different one, with softness draped on the backbone of structure. The irony is delicious!

The collection is as delicious as a black forest, sweetened with the dessert buffet now offered at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel Circles Event Café. It seems that food is now fashionable! (Check out these delicious desserts at the dessert bar, which are packaged in makeup containers.)

The verdict? Black is the new black. They say only a master can turn a cliché into an original. As we see here, there are no clichés, but innovations; no shadows, but silhouettes. Perhaps only one cliché does appear, and that is black is beautiful.

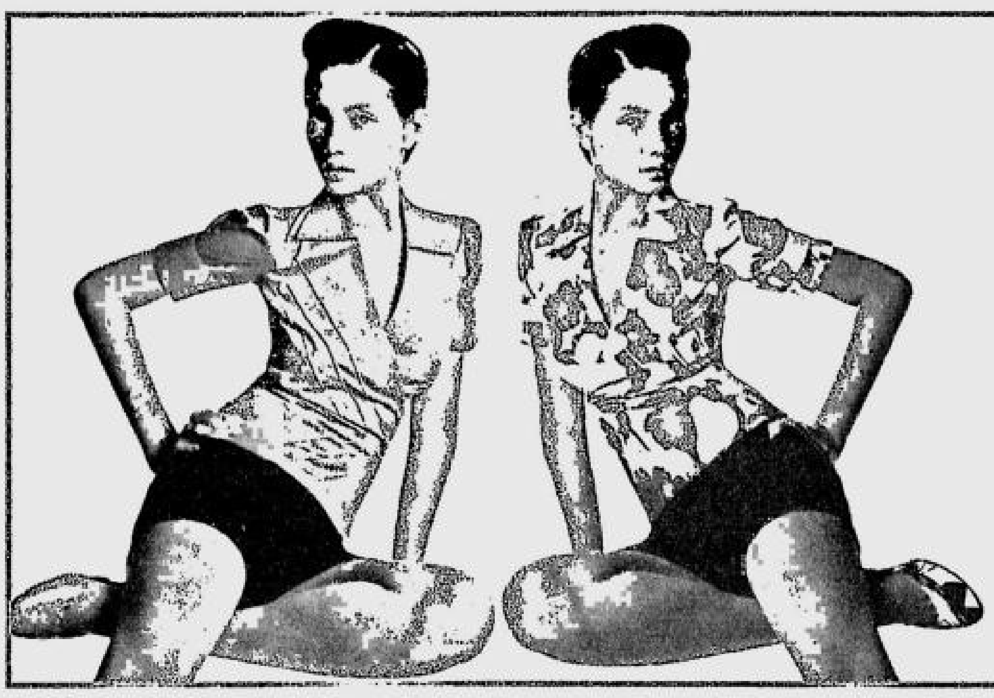
E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

[illegible] competition
NECKLACE by Mickey See

[illegible]ocktail
NECKLACE by Mickey See

Photography Tom Epperson
Styling Jenni Epperson
Makeup Mickey See for Shu Uemura
Hair Nante Alingasa for Kheil's Styling Series

Model Helena Belmonte
Clothes by Dennis Lustico
Location Makati Shangri-La Hotel
Special thanks to Joy Wassmer



A new look, a new face

PLAINS & PRINTS LAUNCHES ITS LATEST holiday collection with an exciting new look and a new endorser, society "it" girl Celine Lopez.

"Celine perfectly embodies Plains & Prints' new collection that promises classic yet more stylish designs and styles for today's young fashionistas," said Roxanne Farillas, owner of Plains & Prints.

"Plains & Prints has always been about the expression of classic beauty. Now, we're giving a new twist to our classic collections that cater to the needs of our younger market, with pieces that let them experiment with their style and help them exude individuality," explained Farillas.

Shop and save lives

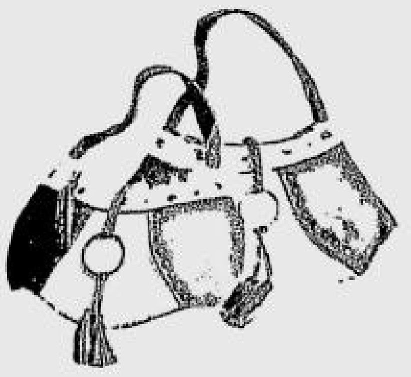
From page C1

Jacobs, Marni, Max Mara, Max & Co., Missoni, Moschino, Paul & Joe, Philosophy, Rebecca Taylor, Sonia Rykiel, Tsumori Chisato.

There will also be home accessories from exporters like in Pottery Barn beddings and table linens. Have a great cuppa too with the most expensive coffee in the world, Coffee Alamid for only P100 a cup.

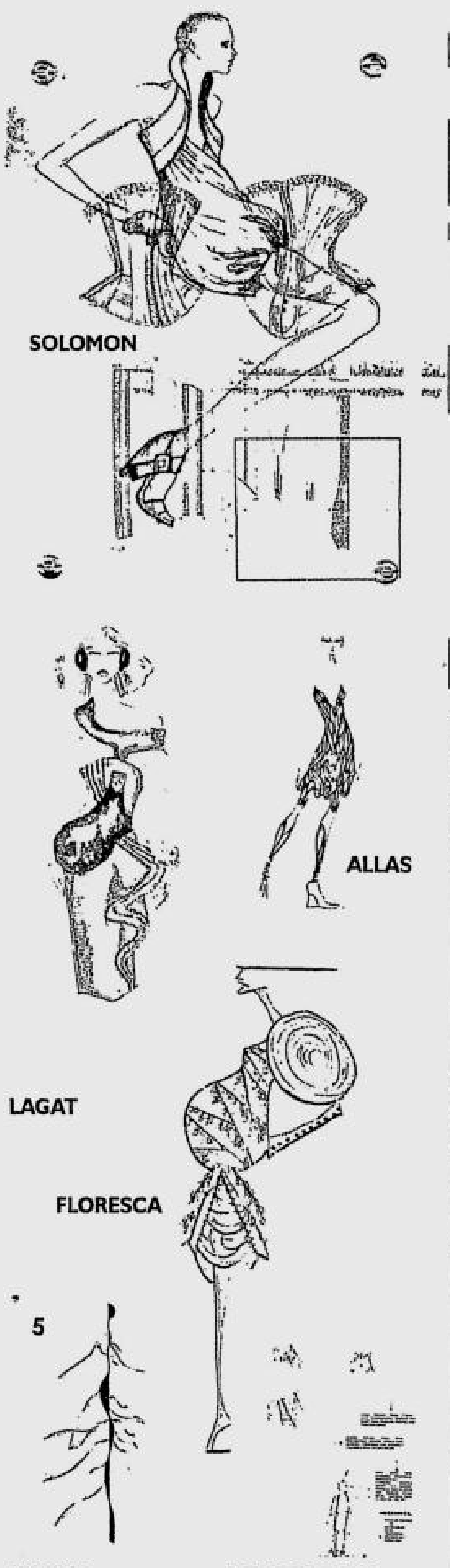
All these and more at Tickled Pink. Be part of the fight, shop to save lives part of the proceeds goes to the I Can Serve foundation, an advocacy group that embarks on high-impact information breast cancer campaigns and links women's cancer patient groups in the country.

The Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Southeast Asia and we need to count on as many partners willing to invest in the health of the Filipina.



FASHION BUZZ

Hot, haute, hot news!



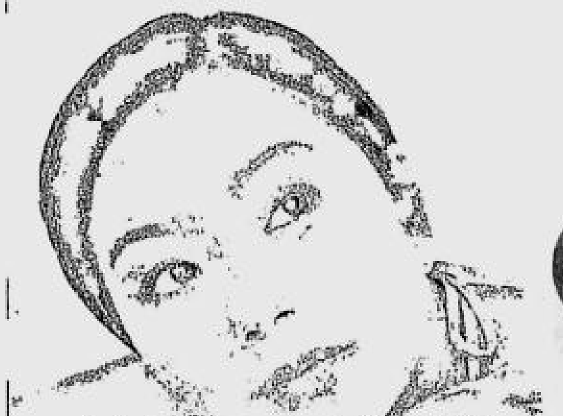
Project runway

MEGA MAGAZINE'S 7TH YOUNG DESIGNERS Competition will take place Oct. 10 at the Crowne Plaza. "The Shape of the New Future" is the theme of the contest and the show is directed by Robby Carmona.

This year's theme explores the infinite possibilities of design to produce extraordinary looks from futuristic technology. Six finalists compete—Randall Solomon, Dave Panganiban, Aries Lagat, Veejay Floresca, Joanna Allas and Emi Alexander Englis.

The grand prize carries with it a one-year scholarship to Mod'Art France.

Mega's Young Designers' Competition is presented by Mega and Samsung, as well as by MTV, Edufrance, Mod'Art, ETC, Philippine Daily Inquirer, VMV Hypoallergenics, Margarita King and Joey 92.3.



Still bothered by ACNE?

"The 3 top causes of acne: Hormones, hormones, hormones."
-Kathy Fields, MD, clinical Instructor in Dermatology, Univ. Of California, San Francisco
(RedBook Journal, Beauty Alert, Apr.1997 issue)

The experts say why:

One tip-off that acne is caused by hormonal imbalance is the tendency of many women to break out just before their periods, when progesterone levels change. Progesterone, a female hormone, stimulates the oil-producing glands; so do androgens, male hormones that are implicated in breakouts. Whenever the ratio of male-to-female hormones changes, as it does during adolescence, ovulation, menstruation and childbirth, acne flares up. Emotional and physical strains can also send hormone levels out of whack.

"For female patients, acne which stopped responding to topical treatments may respond well to hormonal therapy. Hormonal treatments block the stimulating effect of androgens on the oil glands. Because this form of treatment stops acne before it begins, it often gives the best result. Hormonal treatment may be well worth it if your acne cannot be controlled by standard measures. Even moderately severe cystic acne which has resisted treatment for years often clears with properly planned hormonal treatment", says dermatologist Claudia Samonte, MD, FPDS.

Hormonal therapy using the combiphasic pill is a cost-effective option to treat acne. This unique combiphasic pill is proven to treat mild to moderate acne. Consult your doctor if hormonal therapy is for you. For more information, email at gracial@organon.ph or send a text at 0918 367 7412.

*Phl.09.Gra.113

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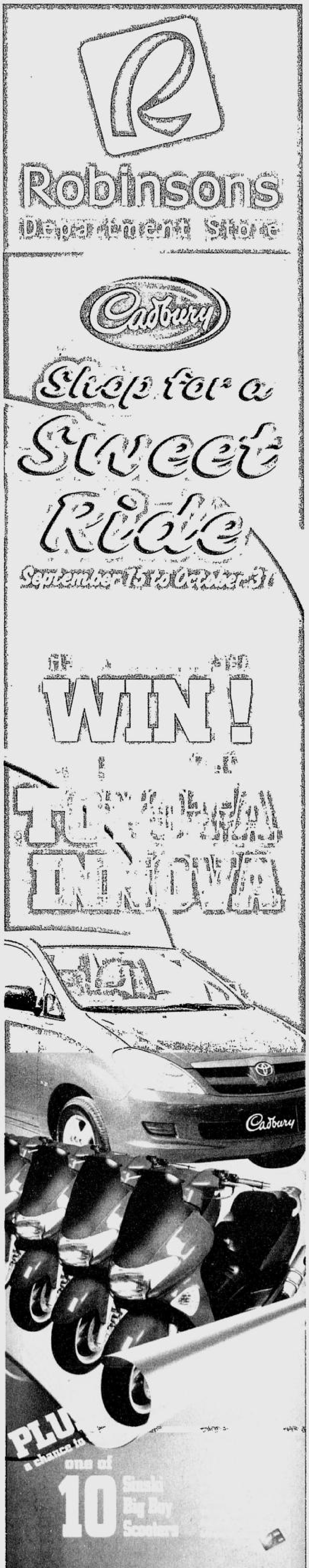

Robinsons
Department Store
Cadbury
Shop for a
Sweet
Ride
September 15 to October 31
WIN!
INNOVA
Cadbury
PLU
a chance to
one of
10
Robinsons Galleria Flagship Store
Robinsons Malls | Waltermart Malls | Nepo Malls | Tutuban Center
Metropolis Star Alabang | Festival Mall Alabang | Limketkai Cagayan de Oro

KIRSTEN Dunst as Marie Antoinette

Fit for a queen

By Kristel Cue
Contributor

> **Manolo Blahnik is set to release a line derived from the shoe designs he did for Sofia Coppola's 'Marie Antoinette'**

FALL FASHION THREATENS to be everything French, from Jean Paul Gaultier's Napoleon-inspired pea coats to the militaristic jackets of Dolce and Gabbana. Blame director Sofia Coppola, whose upcoming flick "Marie Antoinette," has ignited a surge of French inspiration among designers, sending true-blue fashionistas scouring the racks for anything with a trace of "Pah-ree."

But what is an outfit without the perfect pair of matching shoes? Fortunately for the Marie Antoinettes of the world, they can finally have a royal pair of their own—designed especially for the movie by Manolo Blahnik.

Born in the Canary Islands and raised on a banana plantation, Blahnik has come a long way to where he is now: a globally renowned designer responsible for the most lusted-after shoes in the world.

It all began after a trip to New York in 1971, where he met former Vogue editor Diana Vreeland who insisted that he "go make shoes." Since then, Blahnik's career has taken off. He has collaborated with topnotch designers from John Galliano in Europe to Oscar de la Renta and Zac Posen in New York. His A-list clientele include Princess Diana, Jane Birkin (yup, of the Hermes Birkin bag!), Madonna, Kate Moss, and of course... the Manolo-obsessed Carrie Bradshaw in the hit TV show, "Sex and the City" (who could ever forget that famous robbery scene?).

How appropriate then to have the most frivolous queen of France—played by Kirsten Dunst—adorn her own feet with 18th century-style Manolos. After a tremendous amount of research at London's V&A Museum, Blahnik designed over 20 shoes for the film, and chose five of his favorite styles for the soon-to-be-hoarded limited-edition collection. These shoes look like they could have been owned by Marie Antoinette herself, and I bet that if they had, the ladies of Versailles would have died of envy.

INQUIRER Fashion gets the scoop from Manolo Blahnik on what he calls "one of the highlights of his career."

How did you get involved in the project, and what was your initial reaction?

I was in my factories in Milan when I got a call from the office saying that Ms Milena Canonero (the costume designer) called and had asked whether I would be interested in working on this project. I told them I would do whatever they want. I have always been a fan of Ms Canonero's work, and Ms Coppola whom I consider to be a very, very talented director. It got even more exciting when I was told the story was going to be based on Lady [Antonia] Fraser's biography. How could I refuse that!

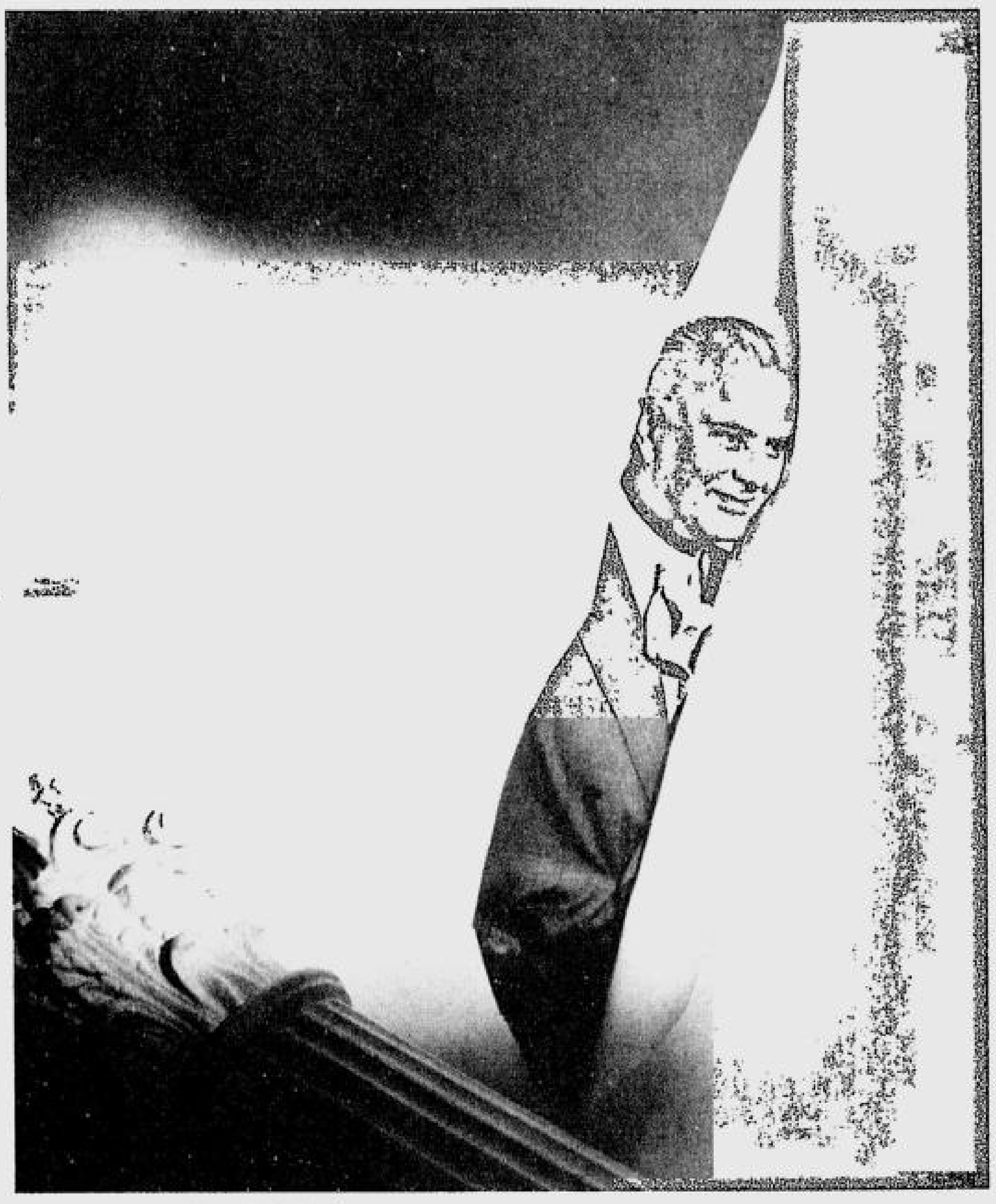
How do you personally see Marie Antoinette? Did you design the shoes in such a way that they reflect her character?

I have been fascinated by the life of Marie Antoinette since I was a child, when my mother read to me the biography by Stefan Zweig. Over the years, my fascination with her grew, and she has always been a source of inspiration to me. You will find many references to her throughout my career.

When designing the shoes for the movie, I tried to imagine what kind of shoes I would have designed for her. It was a marvelous experience.

Aside from the research you've done at the V&A Museum, did you have a specific inspiration in designing these shoes?

Visiting museums and private collections really helped because it gave me an insight into the techniques and the tiny details of the craftsmen of the period. I say craftsmen because the work on these tiny shoes is so remarkable and very difficult to reproduce today! It helped me a lot more than looking at paintings and pictures, which only give you a basic idea of what the shoes would have looked like.



SHOE emperor Manolo Blahnik

What will happen to the shoes designed for the film? Does Kirsten Dunst get to keep some of them?

The shoes will go into my archive. They all end up there.

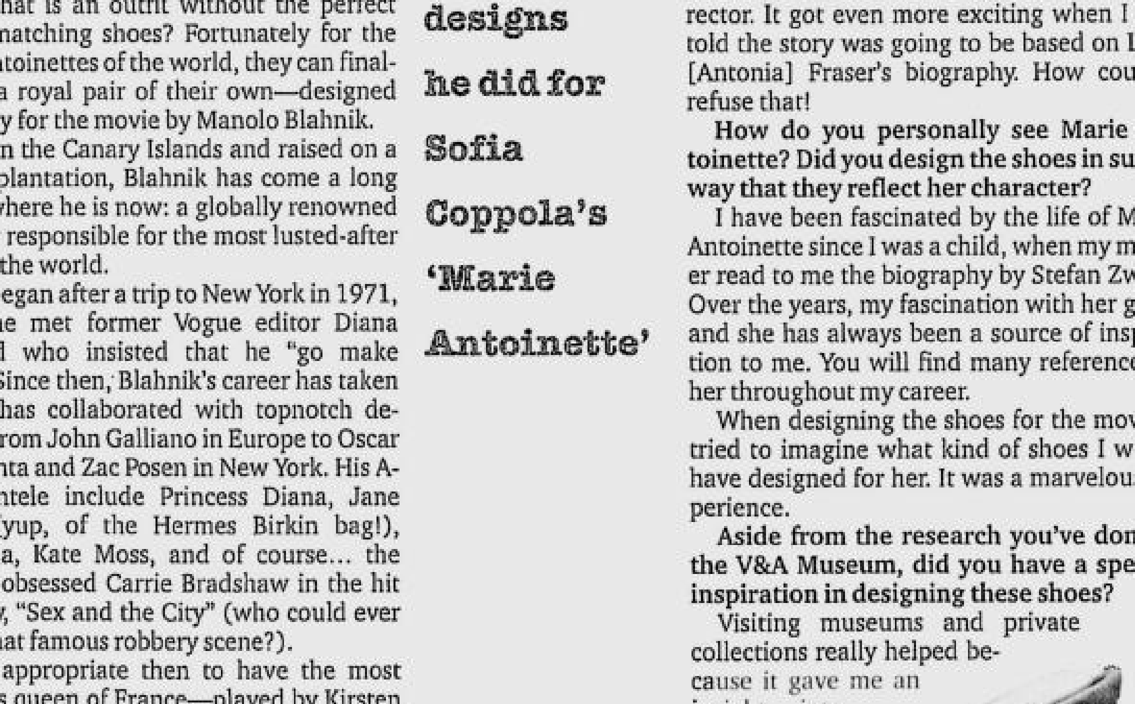
Which celebrity or style icon would, in your opinion, wear these shoes best?

That is a difficult question for me to answer, because I am not very comfortable with the notion of celebrity as it is today, but there are a lot of fabulous-looking women out there who would be able to wear these shoes well.

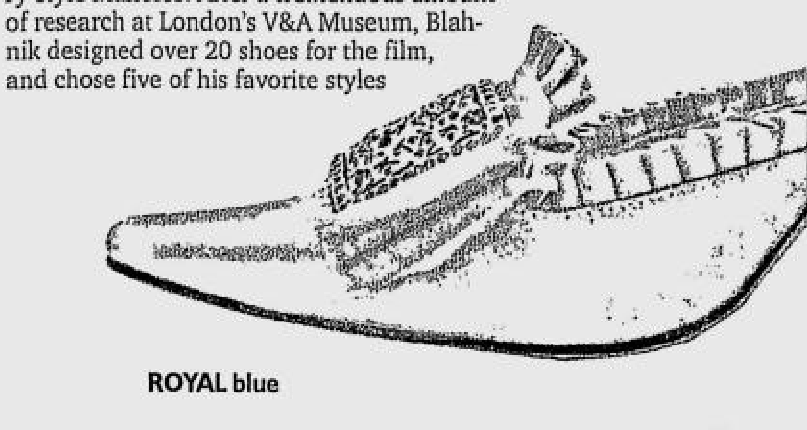
You have already achieved so much during your career as a designer, and you said this has been one of the highlights. Is there anything else you dream of doing?

Oh God, there is still so much I would like to do! Where do I start!

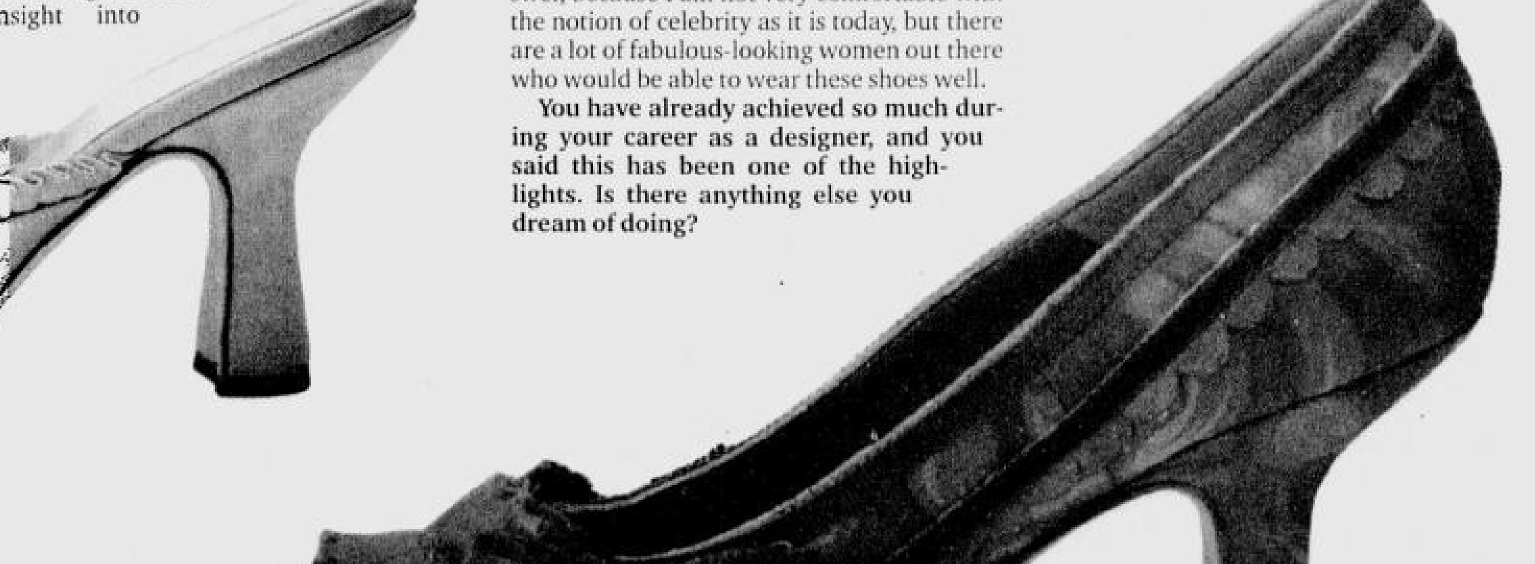
Only five pairs of each style in the Marie Antoinette collection will be sold in every Manolo Blahnik boutique in Europe, Asia and America (gasp!). They will be released simultaneously with the film, giving fashion-obsessed movie buffs a chance to have their cake and eat it, too. If you're one of the ultra-lucky ones who manage to score a pair, well... these shoes will no doubt add a little *je ne sais quoi* to any boring outfit.



ROYAL blue



PINK confection



BROCADE state

Masquerade!

MODEL/ARTIST
Robbie Mananquil rocks on with a camouflage print by Gmask.
On Robbie: H&M shirt and Anthology necklaces at R2 Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

MODEL/ARTIST/BUSINESSWOMAN
Happy Sy opts for the trendy leopard spots by Gmask.
On Happy: Freeway top and Anthology bangles at R2 Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

Dress up your gizmos!

TV host/model/mom Angel Jacob picks a red cherry print by Gmask.
On Angel: Mich Dulce hat at Store for All Seasons, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City; Details white dress

TV host/editor/businessman RJ Ledesma shows off his colorful personality with a rainbow print by Gmask.
On RJ: Ritratto shirt

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

WE DRESS TO SUIT OUR personalities, so it makes sense to dress up our gadgets, too, right? A sleek and shiny gizmo is great, albeit generic, so why not customize its look to suit your style? I, for one, wouldn't mind dressing up my MacBook or cell phone with a self-indulgent apple print or ultra-trendy leopard spots.

Diehard techies may frown upon such an idea, preferring to keep the original look of their MacBook Pros and other high-tech, highfalutin' gadgets. But fashionistas will surely give a thumbs-up to Gmask, a brand that uses protective films to personalize the look of cellular phones, iPods, PDAs, laptops, among many other things.

To date, there are over 300 Gmask designs to choose from. The brand constantly updates their design files so there's always something new to look forward to. Currently, all the designs are from Singapore where Gmask originated from, but pretty soon, they will be coming up with locally made designs featuring Filipino artists and themes.

If you still can't find a pattern you like in spite of Gmask's extensive library, you have the option of customizing your design. You can even embellish your gadgets with Swarovski crystals for a bit of sparkle.

But what I really appreciate about Gmask is the fact that it protects gadgets and makes them scratch-, weather- and sweat-resistant. We spend too much money on our little gizmos so I'm all for added protection. Gmask uses a specially printed protective film from Japan, not just plain, run-of-the-mill stickers. So, it can last five to seven years (probably longer than your cell phone's life span!) and will not leave any marks or residue should you decide to remove it at any point in time.

Although majority of Gmask designs are eye-catching and designed to make you stand out, there are also choices for the male of the species and those with more conservative tastes, who also want to protect their gadgets. Gmask Professional caters to business people and offers exclusive, streamlined, subtle and sophisticated designs. Then again, there's always the option of using a plain transparent film for protection.

The possibilities are endless, not to mention, lots of fun! Again, it all depends on what suits you best. Take your cue from our featured personalities who've chosen Gmask designs to complement their personal style.

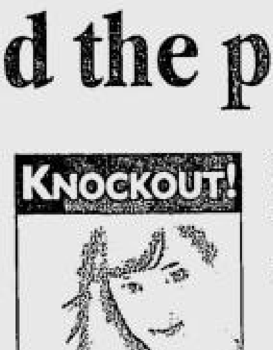
E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Photography/Digital Imaging
Mark Nicdao/wildbünchstudio
Styling/Direction Millet Arzaga
Hair & Makeup Leo Posadas
Models Angel Jacob, Robbie Mananquil,
Happy Sy & RJ Ledesma

GMASK BEAUTY WRAP FOR ELECTRONIC GADGETS IS AVAILABLE AT GLORIETTA 2, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI; GREENBELT 1, MAKATI; ALABANG TOWN CENTER; SM NORTH EDSA; ROBINSONS GALLERIA AND MALL OF ASIA. VISIT WWW.GMASK.COM.PH

Beauty and the pregnancy

KNOCKOUT!



Ria Francisco-Prieto

I HAVE TWO CLOSE FRIENDS WHO ARE now pregnant. Hopefully by next year I will be, too.

When I was newly married, I told Paolo, my husband, that between the two of us, the pregnancy should be my decision.

I told him most of the changes happen to the girl and I should wait and make sure I at least know what I would be getting myself into. And because I would gain weight as a result of pregnancy, I must be prepared for it and not mind ballooning.

Although I've been stick-thin all my life and want to gain weight, I know that pregnancy weight is a different ballgame.

Plus I should be open to getting more stretch marks since I already have them from my hips down to my upper thighs from puberty.

My friend Joanne Tengco religiously applies Palmer balm, which supposedly prevents stretch marks. She really looks great and is very happy with her belly—and behind—getting fuller and even well-rounded.

I guess it's because of her example why I am now open to getting pregnant. I have realized that happy pregnant girls can still take care of themselves.

The bonus was when I saw Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo's picture in a bikini. She looked great.

I know all of this may sound vain, but I realize my fears are shared by other women.

Since a lot of people are frightened by invasive surgery, I was happy to find out that Marie France has a service called Ultrashape Lipo without the suction.

I asked Marie France what the treatment of Dawn was and they happily obliged:

Phase 1: Weight-Loss Program

- Fat Mobilization System

-Developed in Switzerland, cold body wraps accelerate the body's natural biochemical processes.

-Treatment generates efficient and faster burning of calories which are converted into heat and energy.

-Each session burns as much as 1,000-2,000 calories for the 25-minute duration of treatment.

-Treatment also applies to general weight loss.

- Physique Inch-Loss Treatment

-Electric microcurrents stimulate muscles in the abdomen, flanks and back.

-The simulation of muscle contractions builds, tones and strengthens muscles, and firms up sagging areas.

-Treatment obtains the results of doing physical exercises for a person who is comfortably lying down. In fact, 15 minutes of a single session is tantamount to 225 sit-ups.

- Vara Pulse Fat Reducer

-Through the use of ultrasonic wave technology, Vara Pulse breaks down stubborn fat trapped within the limbs (arms, thighs and calves).

-The ultrasound waves penetrate beneath the skin to reach the adipose tissue where fats and cellulite are trapped. Vara Pulse liquefies fatty deposits and stimulates the release of toxins from the body.

-As an effect, clients attest to a reduction in their arms, thighs and calves.

- NuLegs Detoxitrim System

-Lymphatic drainage treatment that gets rid of water retention.

-Prevents the bloated look and eases the body from storing too much water.

-Reduces saddlebags in the hips and reshapes the legs.

-Also improves unattractive leg shape.

Phase 2: Cellulite Reduction

- Endermologie

-US-FDA approved treatment for cellulite reduction

-Using a patented mechanism of rollers and special suction, it applies deep actions on connective and fatty tissues, vascular and lymphatic circulations.

-Cellulite is trapped fat. The continuous action of rollers frees deep tissues that have been trapped in fat, making them smooth and mobile again. By metabolizing fat and increasing collagen in the fibers, Endermologie eliminates the hard, rippled appearance of cellulite in the arms, thighs, legs, abdomen and buttocks.

- VelaSmooth

-Reduces more shallow (superficial) fats to smoothen cellulite through the use of infrared light, bipolar radio frequency and skin-contouring action.

-Stops fat from building up again.

-Ideal for body shaping.

Phase 3: Final Touch-up/Body Contouring

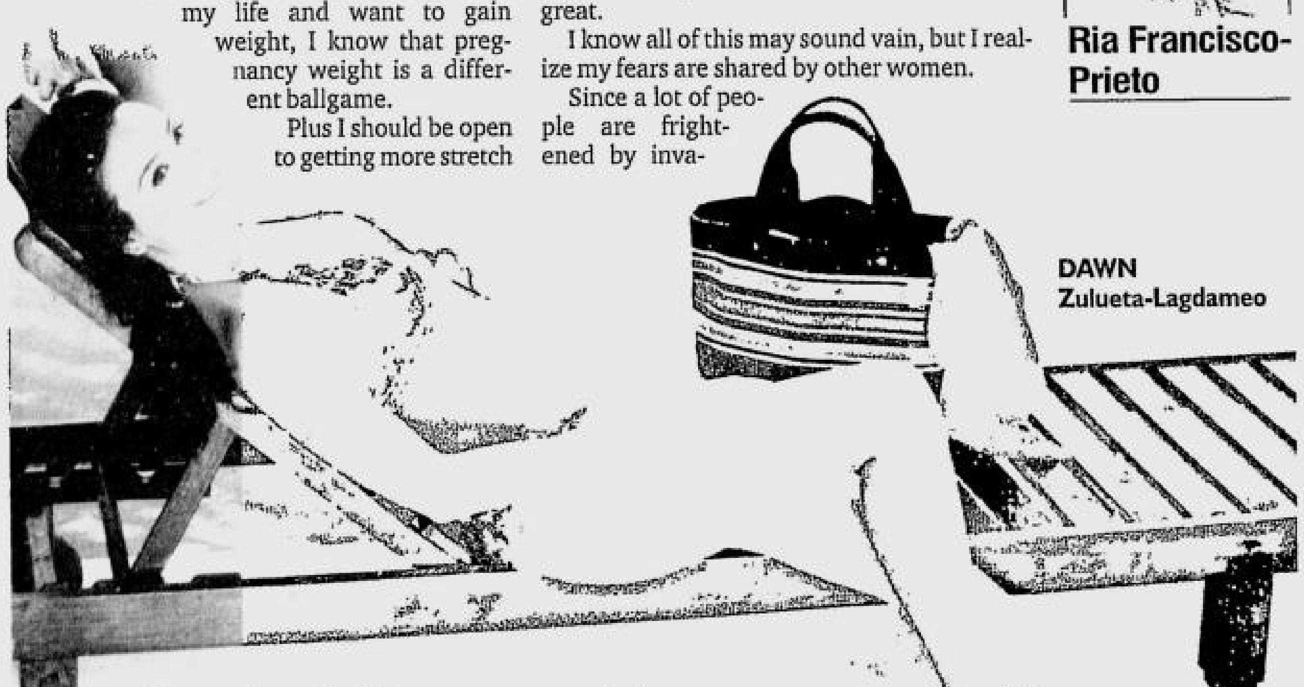
- Ultrashape—Lipo without the suction

-Removes fat cells and melts away body fat in a patient's lunch break.

-A simple and risk-free machine treatment that gets rid of unwanted bulges without the pain and recovery downtime of liposuction or other surgical procedures.

-Works by using ultrasound wave technology to remove unwanted fat; high frequency ultrasound waves pass through the patient's skin from outside the body and selectively target fat cells in a chosen area.

For inquiries on Marie France, call 894-BODY (2639).

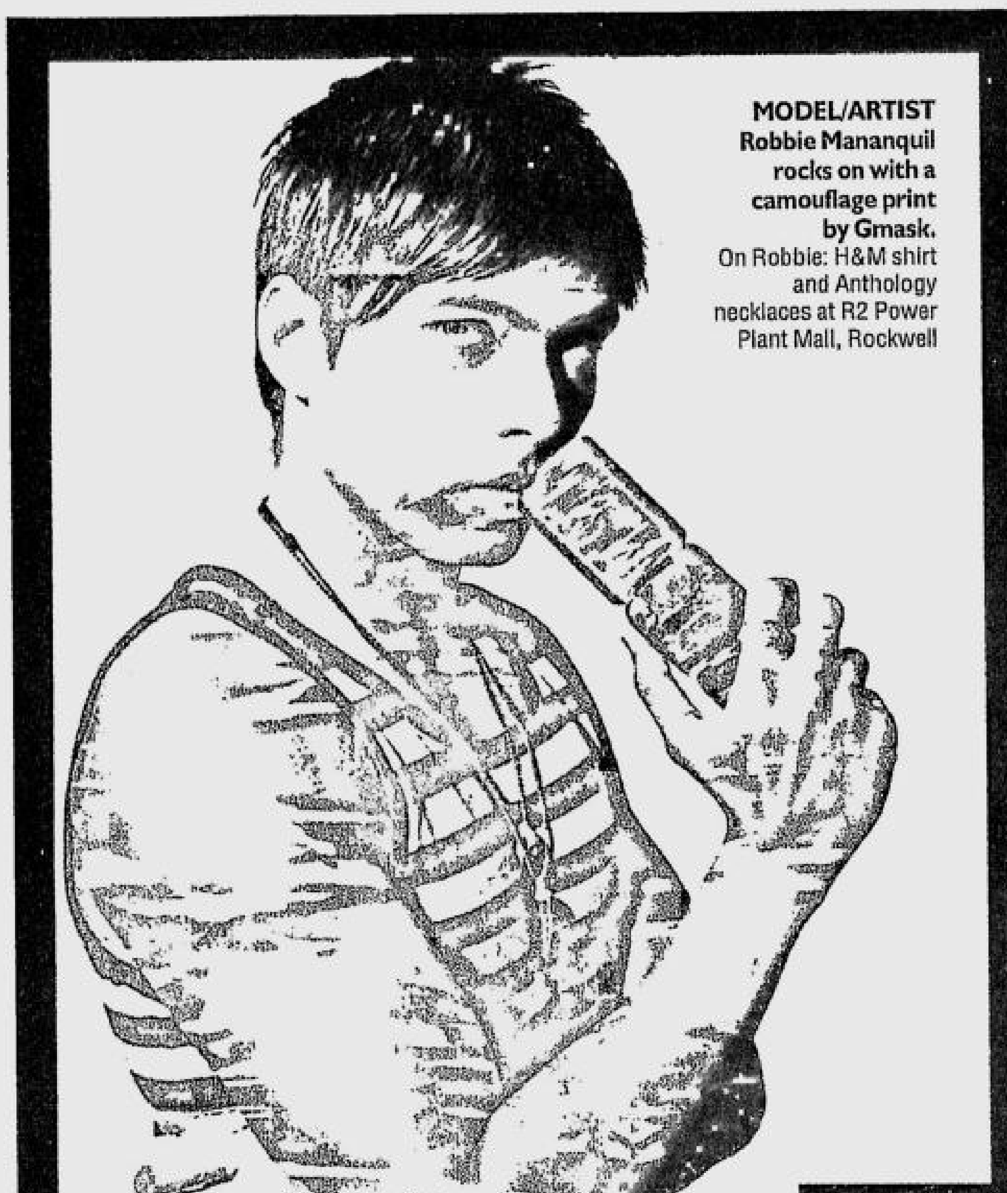


DAWN Zulueta-Lagdameo

One should be prepared for pregnancy and the changes it makes in the body

Masquerade!

Dress up your gizmos!



MODEL/ARTIST
Robbie Mananquil rocks on with a camouflage print by Gmask.
On Robbie: H&M shirt and Anthology necklaces at R2 Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

MODEL/ARTIST/BUSINESSWOMAN
Happy Sy opts for the trendy leopard spots by Gmask.
On Happy: Freeway top and Anthology bangles at R2 Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

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On Angel: Mich Dulce hat at Store for All Seasons, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City; Details white dress

TV host/editor/businessman RJ Ledesma shows off his colorful personality with a rainbow print by Gmask.
On RJ: Ritratto shirt

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Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

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To date, there are over 300 Gmask designs to choose from. The brand constantly updates their design files so there's always something new to look forward to. Currently, all the designs are from Singapore where Gmask originated from, but pretty soon, they will be coming up with locally made designs featuring Filipino artists and themes.

If you still can't find a pattern you like in spite of Gmask's extensive library, you have the option of customizing your design. You can even embellish your gadgets with Swarovski crystals for a bit of sparkle.

But what I really appreciate about Gmask is the fact that it protects gadgets and makes them scratch-, weather- and sweat-resistant. We spend too much money on our little gizmos so I'm all for added protection. Gmask uses a specially printed protective film from Japan, not just plain, run-of-the-mill stickers. So, it can last five to seven years (probably longer than your cell phone's life span!) and will not leave any marks or residue should you decide to remove it at any point in time.

Although majority of Gmask designs are eye-catching and designed to make you stand out, there are also choices for the male of the species and those with more conservative tastes, who also want to protect their gadgets. Gmask Professional caters to business people and offers exclusive, streamlined, subtle and sophisticated designs. Then again, there's always the option of using a plain transparent film for protection.

The possibilities are endless, not to mention, lots of fun! Again, it all depends on what suits you best. Take your cue from our featured personalities who've chosen Gmask designs to complement their personal style.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Photography/Digital Imaging
Mark Nicdao/wildbünchstudio
Styling/Direction Millet Arzaga
Hair & Makeup Leo Posadas
Models Angel Jacob, Robbie Mananquil,
Happy Sy & RJ Ledesma

GMASK BEAUTY WRAP FOR ELECTRONIC GADGETS
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GREENBELT 1, MAKATI; ALABANG TOWN CENTER;
SM NORTH EDSA; ROBINSONS GALLERIA AND MALL OF ASIA.
VISIT WWW.GMASK.COM.PH

Beauty and the pregnancy

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

I HAVE TWO CLOSE FRIENDS WHO ARE now pregnant. Hopefully by next year I will be, too.

When I was newly married, I told Paolo, my husband, that between the two of us, the pregnancy should be my decision.

I told him most of the changes happen to the girl and I should wait and make sure I at least know what I would be getting myself into. And because I would gain weight as a result of pregnancy, I must be prepared for it and not mind ballooning.

Although I've been stick-thin all my life and want to gain weight, I know that pregnancy weight is a different ballgame.

Plus I should be open to getting more stretch marks since I already have them from my hips down to my upper thighs from puberty.

My friend Joanne Tengco religiously applies Palmer balm, which supposedly prevents stretch marks. She really looks great and is very happy with her belly—and behind—getting fuller and even well-rounded.

I guess it's because of her example why I am now open to getting pregnant. I have realized that happy pregnant girls can still take care of themselves.

The bonus was when I saw Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo's picture in a bikini. She looked great.

I know all of this may sound vain, but I realize my fears are shared by other women.

Since a lot of people are frightened by invasive surgery, I was happy to find out that Marie France has a service called Ultrashape Lipo without the suction.

I asked Marie France what the treatment of Dawn was and they happily obliged:

Phase 1: Weight-Loss Program

- Fat Mobilization System

-Developed in Switzerland, cold body wraps accelerate the body's natural biochemical processes.

-Treatment generates efficient and faster burning of calories which are converted into heat and energy.

-Each session burns as much as 1,000-2,000 calories for the 25-minute duration of treatment.

-Treatment also applies to general weight loss.

- Physique Inch-Loss Treatment

-Electric microcurrents stimulate muscles in the abdomen, flanks and back.

-The simulation of muscle contractions builds, tones and strengthens muscles, and firms up sagging areas.

-Treatment obtains the results of doing physical exercises for a person who is comfortably lying down. In fact, 15 minutes of a single session is tantamount to 225 sit-ups.

- Vara Pulse Fat Reducer

-Through the use of ultrasonic wave technology, Vara Pulse breaks down stubborn fat trapped within the limbs (arms, thighs and calves).

-The ultrasound waves penetrate beneath the skin to reach the adipose tissue where fats and cellulite are trapped. Vara Pulse liquefies fatty deposits and stimulates the release of toxins from the body.

-As an effect, clients attest to a reduction in their arms, thighs and calves.

- NuLegs Detoxitrim System

-Lymphatic drainage treatment that gets rid of water retention.

-Prevents the bloated look and eases the body from storing too much water.

-Reduces saddlebags in the hips and reshapes the legs.

-Also improves unattractive leg shape.

Phase 2: Cellulite Reduction

- Endermologie

-US-FDA approved treatment for cellulite reduction

-Using a patented mechanism of rollers and special suction, it applies deep actions on connective and fatty tissues, vascular and lymphatic circulations.

-Cellulite is trapped fat. The continuous action of rollers frees deep tissues that have been trapped in fat, making them smooth and mobile again. By metabolizing fat and increasing collagen in the fibers, Endermologie eliminates the hard, rippled appearance of cellulite in the arms, thighs, legs, abdomen and buttocks.

- VelaSmooth

-Reduces more shallow (superficial) fats to smoothen cellulite through the use of infrared light, bipolar radio frequency and skin-contouring action.

-Stops fat from building up again.

-Ideal for body shaping.

Phase 3: Final Touch-up/Body Contouring

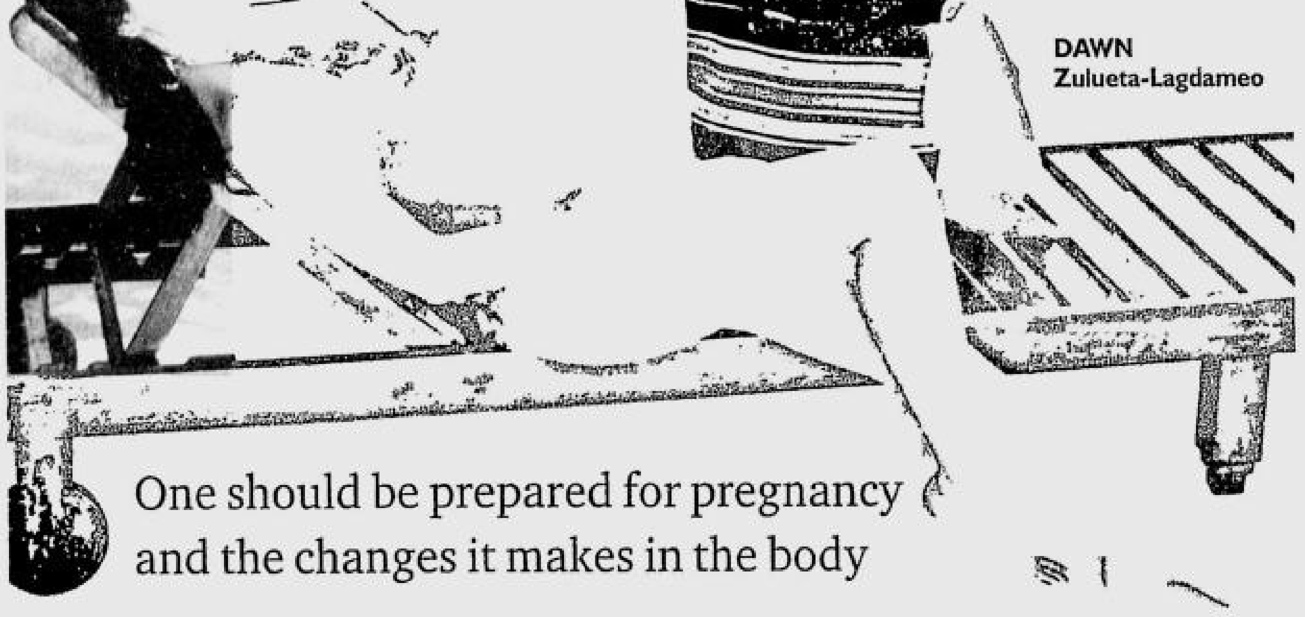
- Ultrashape—Lipo without the suction

-Removes fat cells and melts away body fat in a patient's lunch break.

-A simple and risk-free machine treatment that gets rid of unwanted bulges without the pain and recovery downtime of liposuction or other surgical procedures.

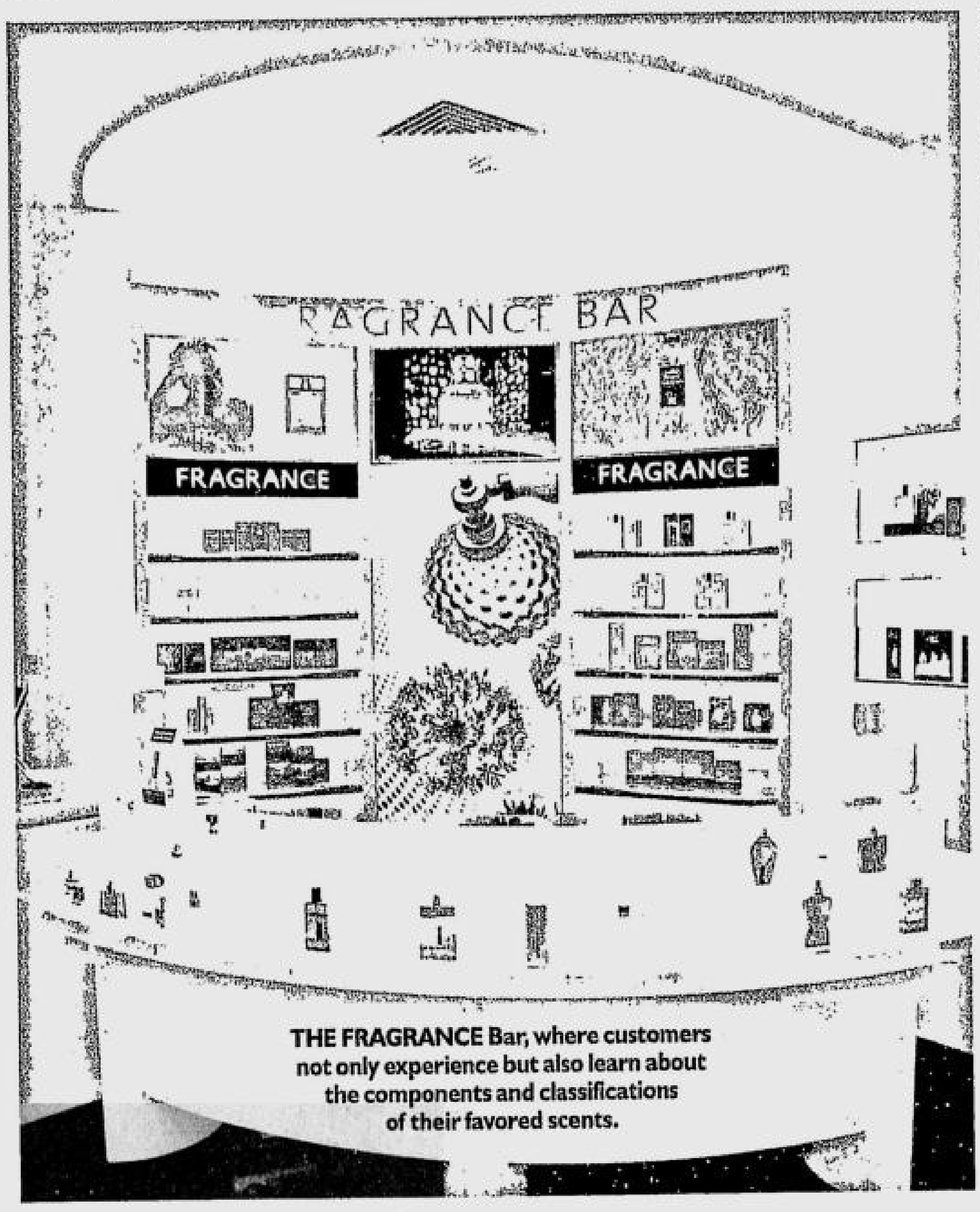
-Works by using ultrasound wave technology to remove unwanted fat; high frequency ultrasound waves pass through the patient's skin from outside the body and selectively target fat cells in a chosen area.

For inquiries on Marie France, call 894-BODY (2639).

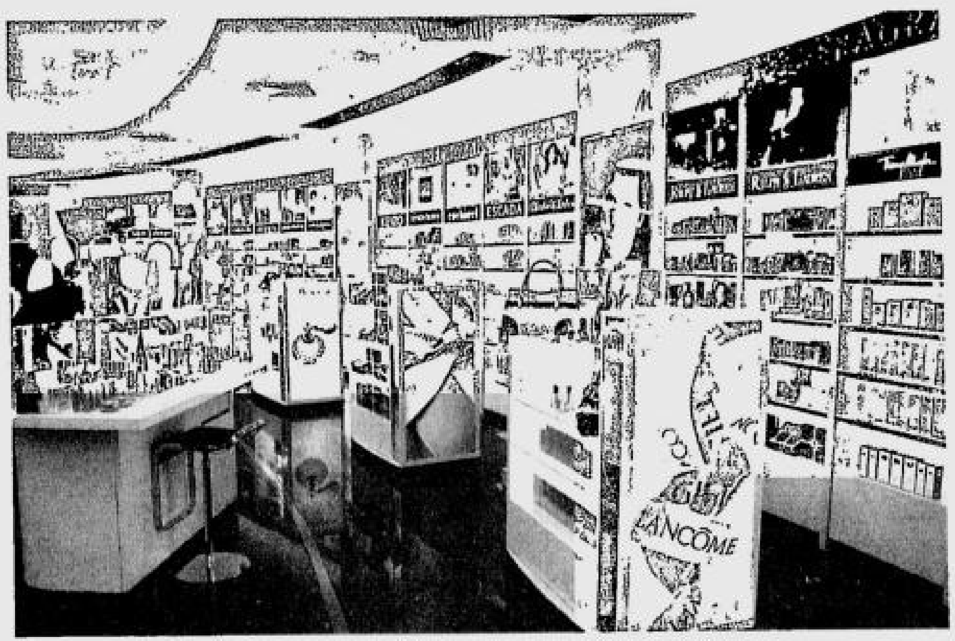


DAWN Zulueta-Lagdameo

One should be prepared for pregnancy and the changes it makes in the body

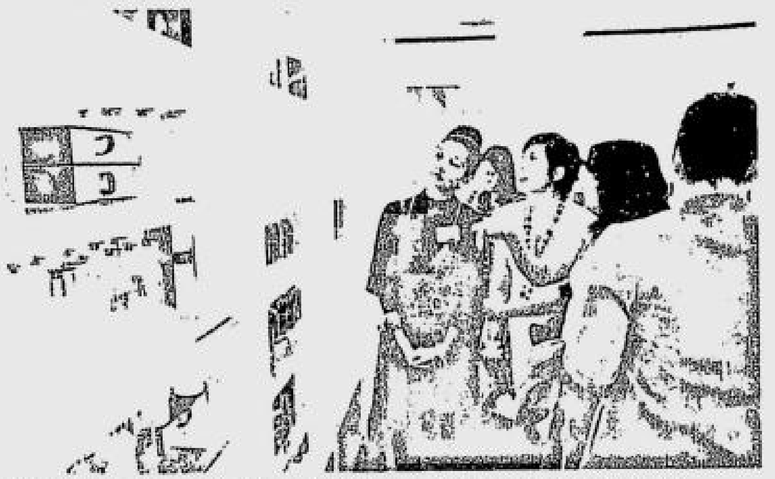


THE FRAGRANCE Bar, where customers not only experience but also learn about the components and classifications of their favored scents.



SPRITZ, spray, sniff all you want. Gucci, Escada, Dior, Lancome, Thierry Mugler, Ralph Lauren, Bulgari... Name it, the store—which carries some 40 fragrance brands—has it. Well, except Chanel, which will be available soon.

YOU can touch and try the makeup—and summon the staff only when you need assistance.



EDITORS of local glossies are introduced to the beauty chain's exclusive skincare and well-being brands.

MARIONNAUD execs Christophe Didion, Maria Norrman and Malina Ngai

Planet *fragrance*

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

LUXURY FRAGRANCES AND MAKEUP ARE usually kept in locked glass cases so that for many Filipinos, cosmetics stores have become intimidating.

In a survey done by a European cosmetics retailer, it was found that Asians want to be able to touch and feel the products before making a purchase. Asians also want a wide range of testers available to them, Maria Norrman said.

Norrman is the strategic director for luxury perfumeries and cosmetics for Asia of the A.S. Watson Group, the company that owns Marionnaud (pronounced *Mario-know*), Europe's largest luxury cosmetics and perfumeries chain. Marionnaud opened its first store outside of Europe—and its biggest store in the world—at the Mall of Asia recently.

The 900-sq-m store aims to "get rid of the daunting setup of luxury cosmetics stores that Filipinos are used to seeing," said country manager Paolo Abad. "We want to bring down the luxury concept to a level that's more inviting. All the products here are available for customers to try for themselves; they're not locked in display cases. We encourage them to test the products on their own." No pesky and overzealous sales staff hovering behind you.

Touch and test

True enough, the walls that wrap the vast, brightly lit store—which is reminiscent of airport duty-free shops, observed one magazine editor—are lined with perfumes and scents from some 40 brands, from the usual suspects to some new entrants to local retail. Each variant is generously provided with full-bottle testers.

In one corner is the Fragrance Bar, where samples of each fragrance family (woody, floral, chypre, aromatic and oriental) are displayed. There's also a computer where the scents are catalogued according to brand and scent classification to help customers with their choice.

"We found that Asians buy according to brand and packaging," noted Christophe Didion, Marionnaud's country manager for China. "For us, we want to educate and allow you to experience." Coffee beans are provided to "clear" the nose between testings.

At the center is the Color Area or "play area," where customers get to sample makeup from the popular brands (Dior, Shiseido, Clinique, Lancôme, Estée Lauder, L'Oreal) to Marionnaud's exclusive labels (Molton Brown, Becca, Lise Watier, Christian Breton, Allison). Professional makeup artists are also on hand for makeovers and expert advice.

Marionnaud builds its biggest scent-and-makeup store in the world in Manila

"Our staff are employees of the store, not the brands," Abad said. "They don't work on commission, so they don't pressure you into buying exclusively from one brand."

Exceptional service

Owing to the popularity of the makeup brand MAC among Filipinos, a separate section of the store is allotted for it alone. It's MAC's biggest store space in the country. Across it is a large counter for Origins.

Marionnaud, said Norrman, is noted in Europe for its exceptional service that it has some nine million loyalty-card holders. While customers are given free reign across the store, she said a staff is available at all times to assist them.

The chain has 1,200 stores across Europe and carries some 100 brands or about 5,700 products. Approximately 90 percent of the brands are initially available for the Philippine market, including 17 exclusive labels.

As in Europe, Marionnaud at the Mall of Asia (2/L Main Mall, tel. 5560422) isn't just a fragrance-and-makeup store; it's a full-service shop that has a juice bar, a nail bar for mani-pedi services and foot massages, hair-and-makeup rooms, and spa rooms for body treatments.

The back section of the store is devoted to skincare and well-being brands (Decleor, Clarins, Guerlain, Arden), including names new to the local market (Dessange, Valmont, La Colline, Paul Neihans).

First in Asia

A.S. Watson is part of the Hutchison Whampoa conglomerate, and owns the Watsons drugstore chain. That it would choose the country as its first point of expansion for Marionnaud outside Europe is very telling; the multinational firm sees the country as a significant growth area for retail. (Watsons itself has grown to 60 branches in the country after only four years, many of which are found in SM branches. The company has strong business ties with the SM Group.)

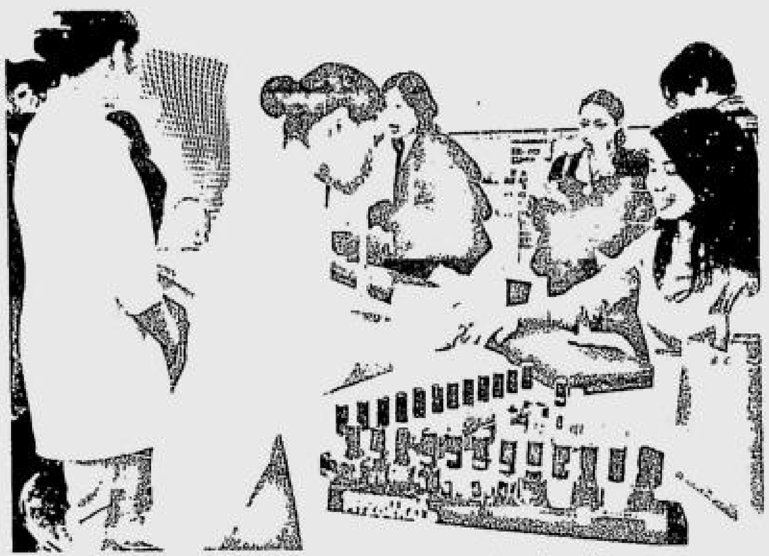
This vote of confidence for the Philippines was palpable as the Marionnaud execs conducted the press tour even at the height of Typhoon Milenyo, undaunted by the intermittent power outage in the mall.

"In France (where Marionnaud was born, and has some 500 branches), 60 percent of our sales are fragrances," Norrman explained. "The Philippines is no different. This is a strong market for fragrance"—around 50-55 percent local market share, according to Abad—"unlike in China, where they're more into skincare…

"In Hong Kong, Christmas shopping peaks for two weeks and then sales drop. Here it builds up slowly and for a longer period," Norrman added. "We also found that this market likes to try new products, so we brought in new brands that you won't find from other retailers."

"Our biggest store in Paris is only 500 sq m," Norrman said. "This one is the biggest, and it's my personal favorite."

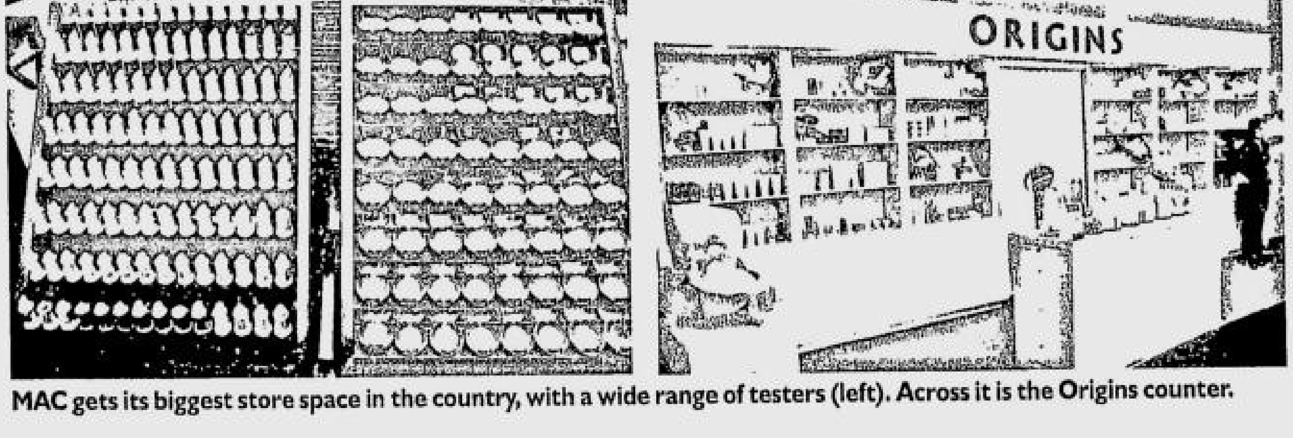
E-mail cmoral@inquirer.com.ph



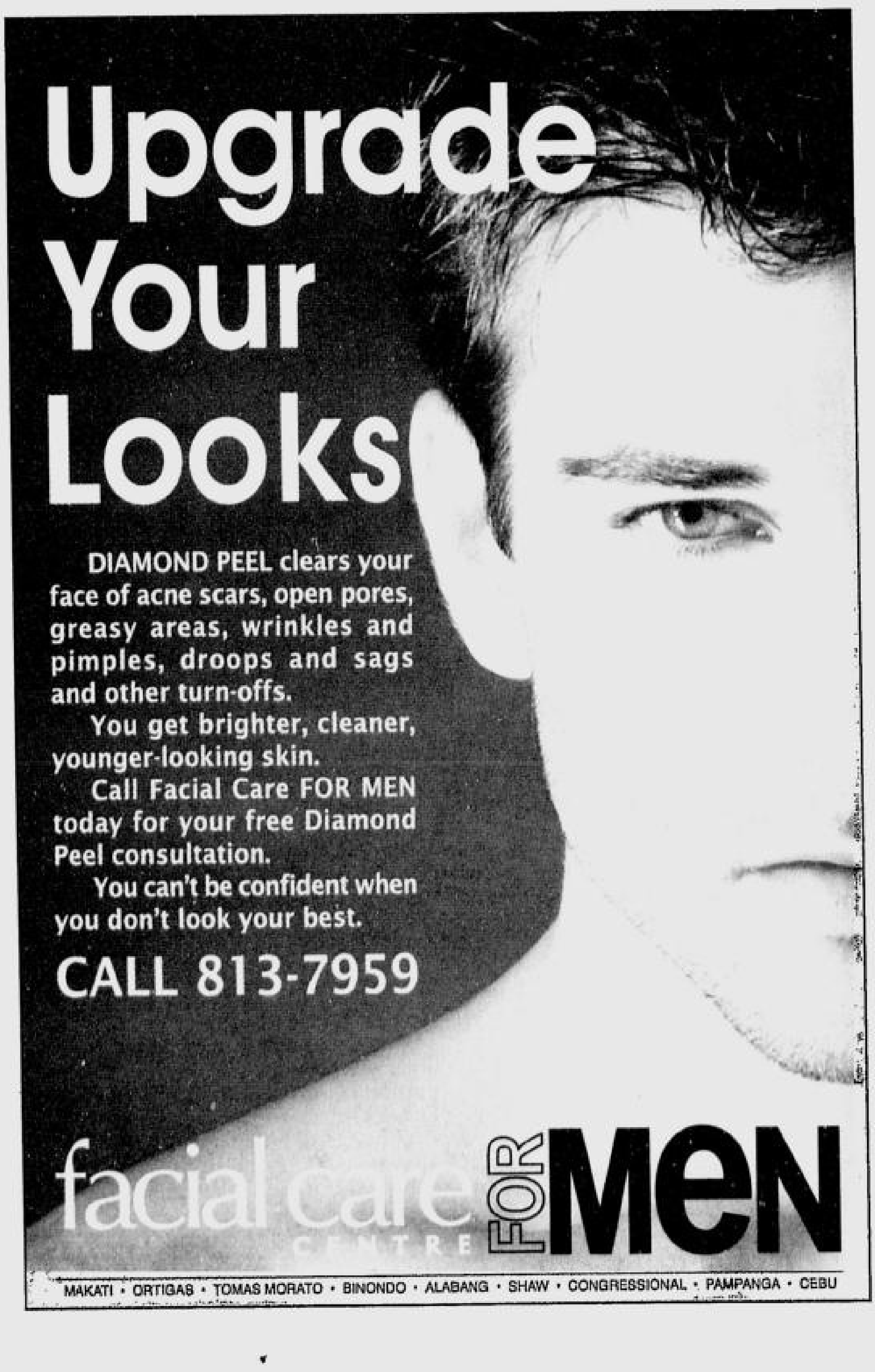
THE NAIL Bar, where shoppers can get mani-pedi and foot massages. Also offered are full-body treatments and quickie hair-and-makeup services.

THE COLOR "play area," where customers get advice from the pros and makeovers using makeup from different brands.

CHIEF makeup artist Melanie Oca presents Marionnaud's exclusive makeup brands to members of the press, including the French label Christian Breton (right).



MAC gets its biggest store space in the country, with a wide range of testers (left). Across it is the Origins counter.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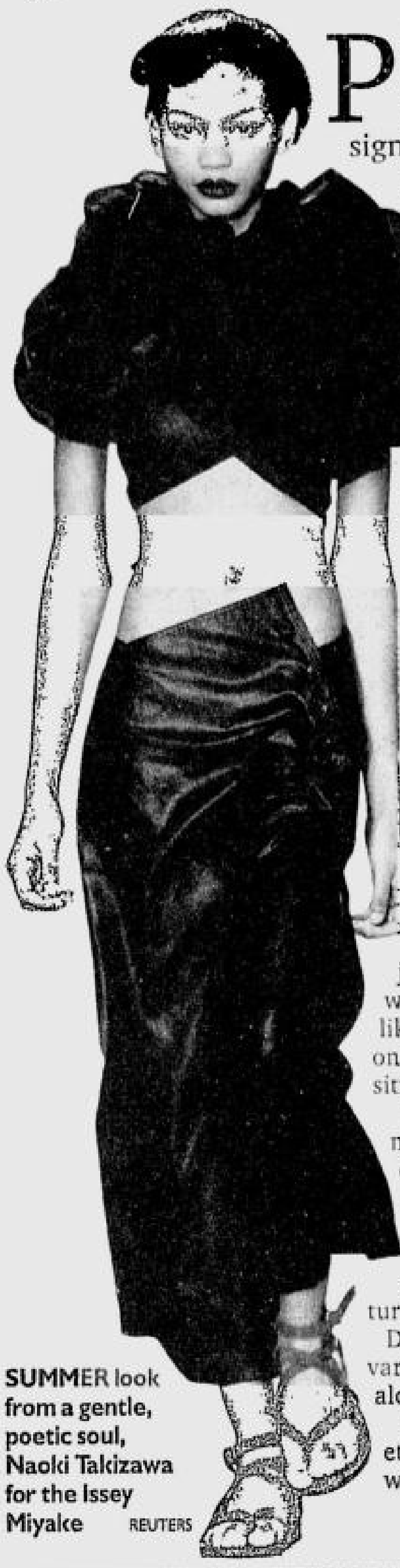
NESCAFÉ Classic
NEW
NESCAFÉ CLASSIC

Sporty Gaultier, restrained Dior, poetic Miyake



SUMMER look from a gentle, poetic soul, Naoki Takizawa for the Issey Miyake REUTERS

PARIS—JEAN PAUL Gaultier, marking 30 years as a fashion designer this month, wittily targeted today's obsession with working out to stay thin for his collection of sporty chic on Tuesday.

At Christian Dior, meanwhile, John Galliano made a marked style U-turn from his previous season's gothic chic for soft draping and sensible suits, while poetic versatility flowed at Issey Miyake.

Urged on by aerobics instructors, Gaultier's models will limber up for Spring-Summer 2007 in high-heeled Converse trainers, legs covered in fishnet tights or stripy socks, and wearing satiny boxer shorts.

"Go faster" stripes raced up, down and along garments such as loose jackets like a jogging top, while hoods made them look like sweat shirts, and numbers on the back told their team position.

The workout certainly did not forget luxury and glamour, with sexily low-draped tops, rich embroidery, glittery details and cut-away shoulders in sumptuous yellow, purple and turquoise.

Dior's restrained suits and variations of draped frocks heralded a more classic summer.

Round-shouldered suit jackets in stormy gray or granite were paired with polite pencil skirts, adorned only by tone-on-tone embroidery, vent slits on the arm or flat layering.

Dresses overwhelmingly dominated the ready-to-wear wardrobe that seemed to celebrate down-to-earth womanly elegance, from simple shifts to elaborately draped dresses. The frocks were embellished with silver and peacock feather glitter, or chains.

Naoki Takizawa for Issey Miyake constantly changed direction and tempo but without losing the overall sense of a gentle, poetic soul.

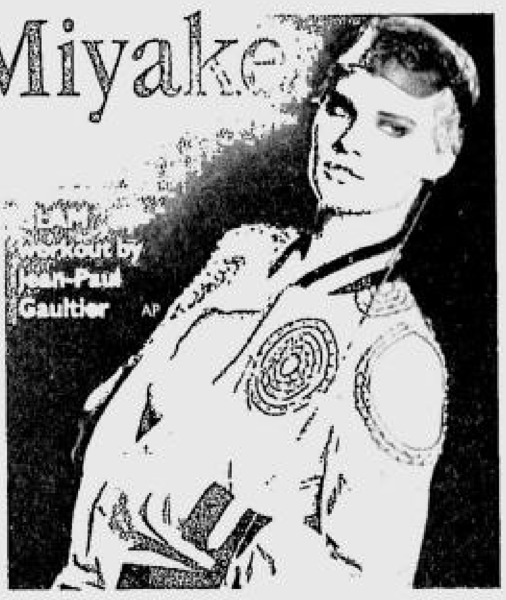
The designer took very simple pieces in watery grey and added mere hints of indigo just visible under the arm or in edging at the waist of a puffed skirt.

Then, like a butterfly from a chrysalis, models unbuttoned, undid or reversed the clothes to reveal summery indigo and poppy shades with prints like daisy petals.

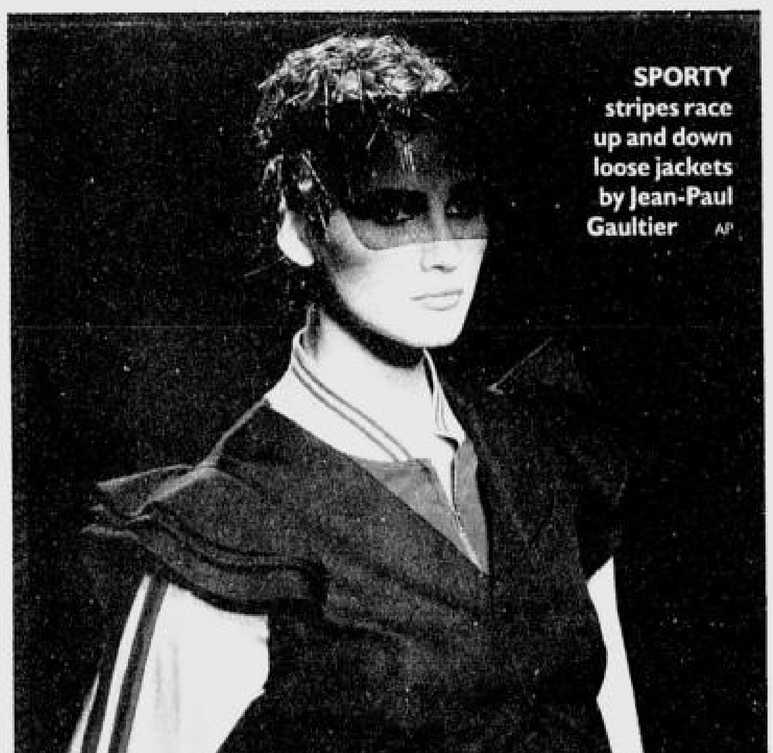
Chemically washed denim and super-supple sheep skin in mottled colors directed the collection toward a casual-smart look before pleats took over, especially effective as flowers.

Nature and its beauty seemed to shine through the collection—red jute thread embroidered on a dress like veins on a petal was stunning.

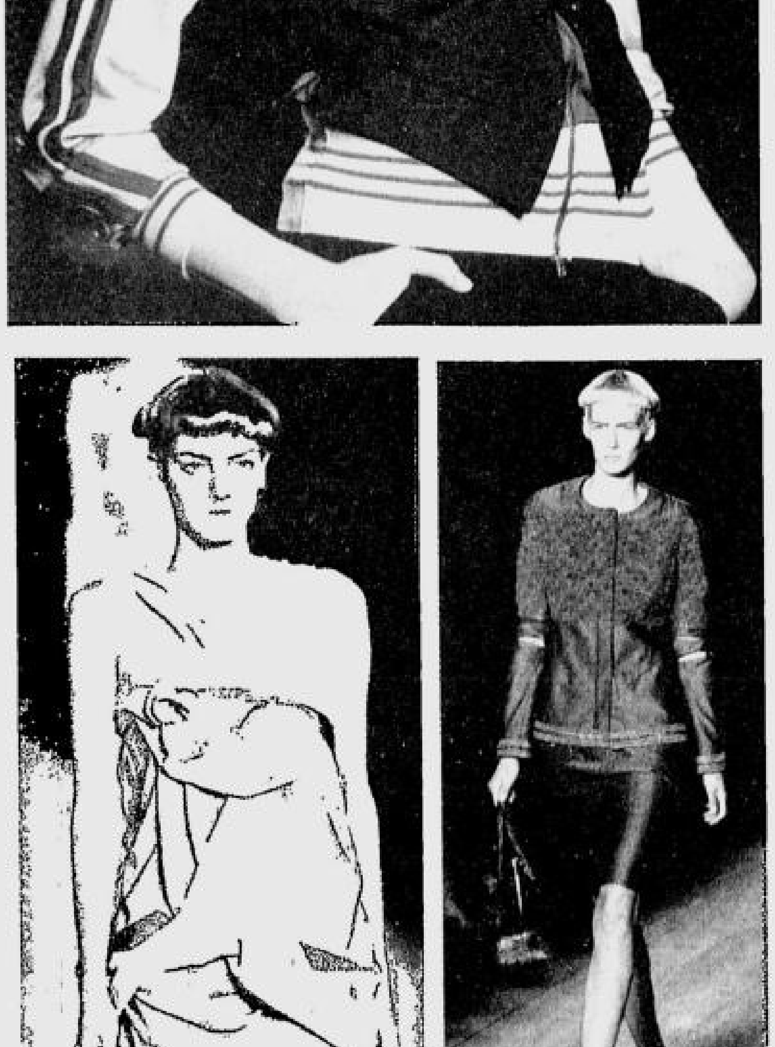
AFP



[illegible]kout by Jean-Paul Gaultier AP



SPORTY stripes race up and down loose jackets by Jean-Paul Gaultier AP



SOFT draping and sensible suits by John Galliano for Christian Dior AF

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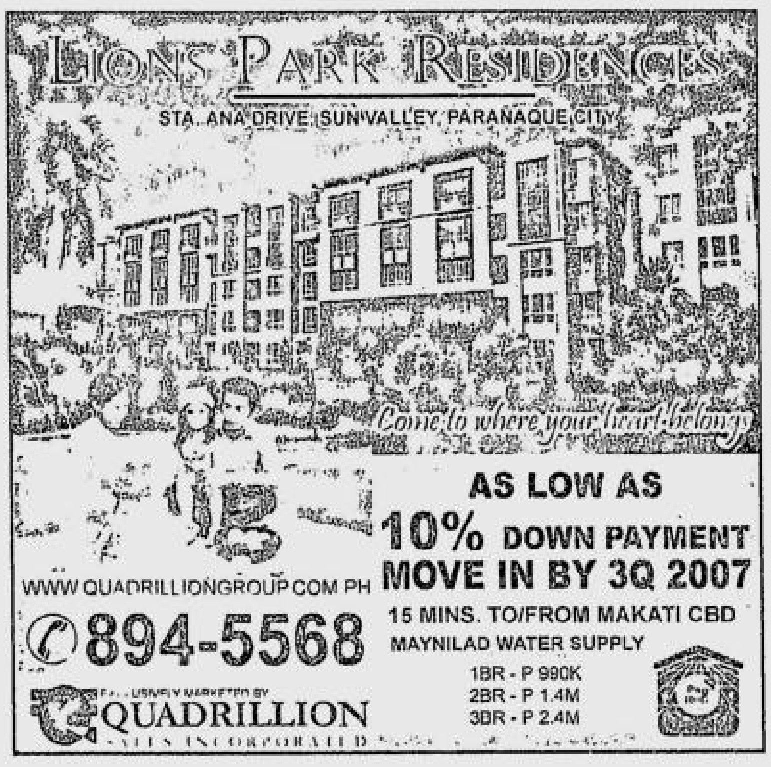

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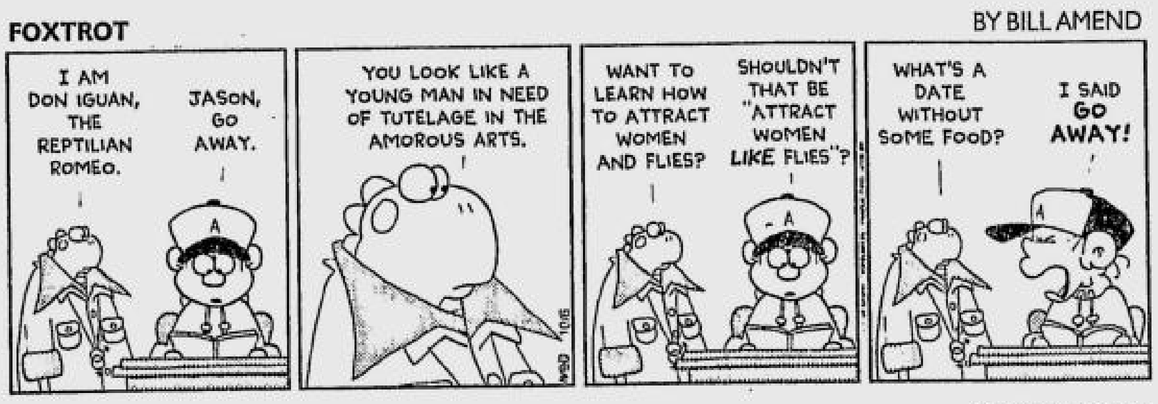
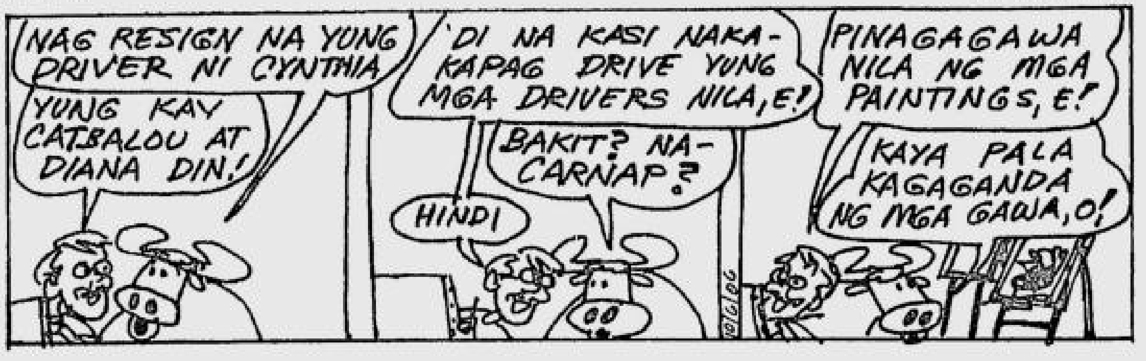
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I AM DON IGUAN, THE REPTILIAN ROMEO.
JASON, GO AWAY.
YOU LOOK LIKE A YOUNG MAN IN NEED OF TUTELAGE IN THE AMOROUS ARTS.
WANT TO LEARN HOW TO ATTRACT WOMEN AND FLIES?
SHOULDN'T THAT BE "ATTRACT WOMEN LIKE FLIES"?
WHAT'S A DATE WITHOUT SOME FOOD?
I SAID GO AWAY!

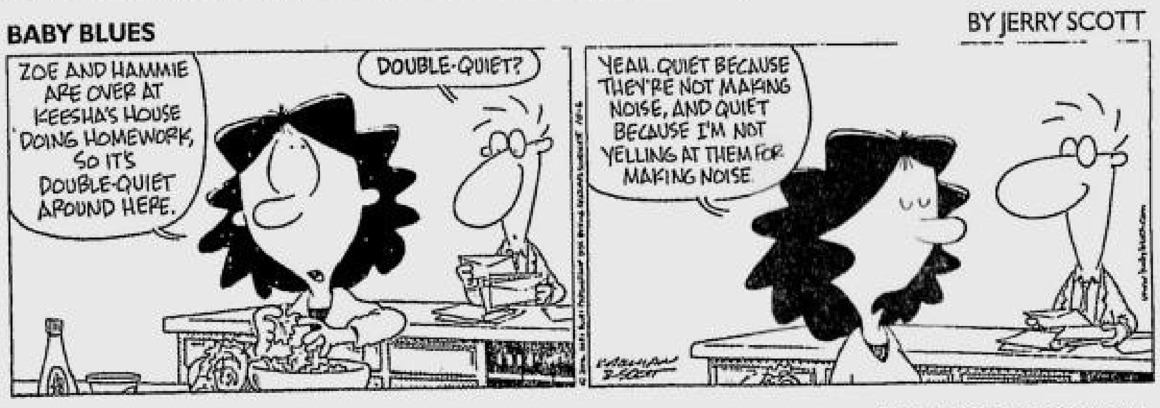
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NAG RESIGN NA YUNG DRIVER NI CYNTHIA
YUNG KAY CATBALOU AT DIANA DIN!
'DI NA KASI NAKA-KAPAG DRIVE YUNG MGA DRIVERS NILA, E!
BAKIT? NA-CARNAP?
HINDI
PINAGAGAWA NILA NG MGA PAINTINGS, E!
KAYA PALA KAGAGANDA NG MGA GAWA, O!

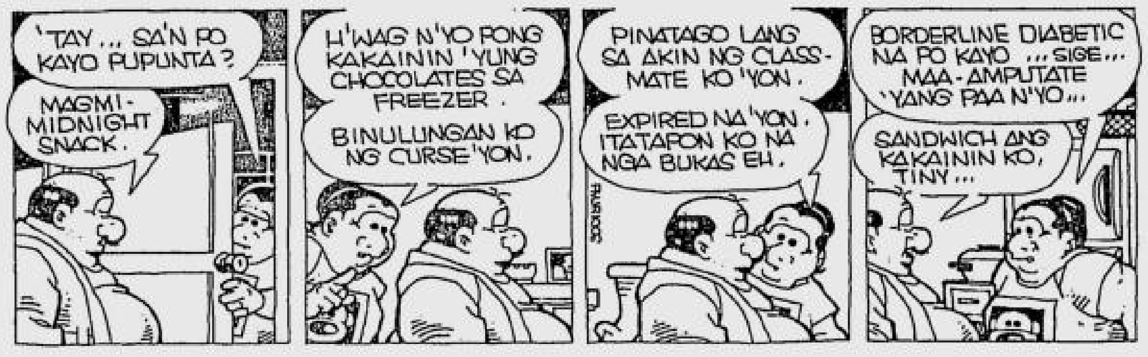
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE AND HAMMIE ARE OVER AT KEESHA'S HOUSE DOING HOMEWORK, SO IT'S DOUBLE-QUIET AROUND HERE.
DOUBLE-QUIET?
YEAH. QUIET BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT MAKING NOISE, AND QUIET BECAUSE I'M NOT YELLING AT THEM FOR MAKING NOISE.

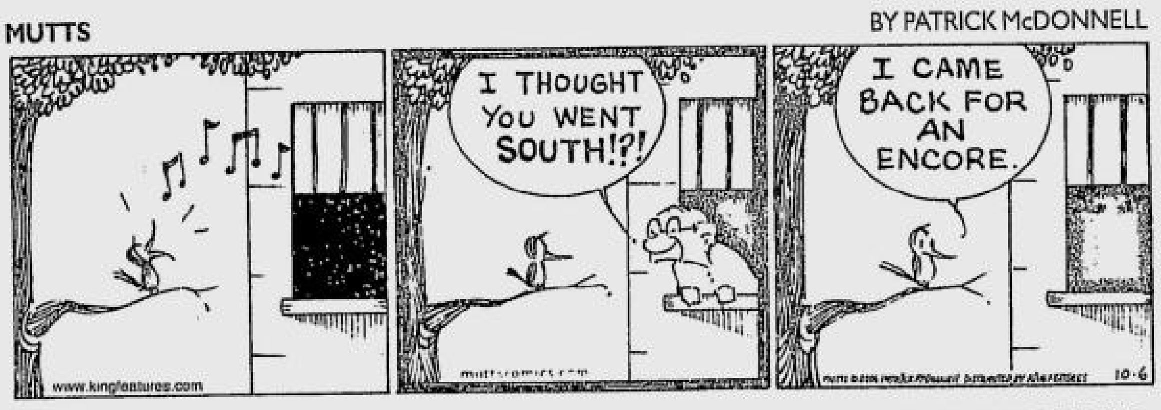
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


'TAY... SA'N PO KAYO PUPUNTA?
MAGMI-MIDNIGHT SNACK.
H'WAG N'YO PONG KAKAININ 'YUNG CHOCOLATES SA FREEZER.
BINULUNGAN KO NG CURSE 'YON.
PINATAGO LANG SA AKIN NG CLASS-MATE KO 'YON.
EXPIRED NA 'YON. ITATAPON KO NA NGA BUKAS EH.
BORDERLINE DIABETIC NA PO KAYO ...SIGE... MAA-AMPUTATE 'YANG PAA N'YO...
SANDWICH ANG KAKAININ KO, TINY...

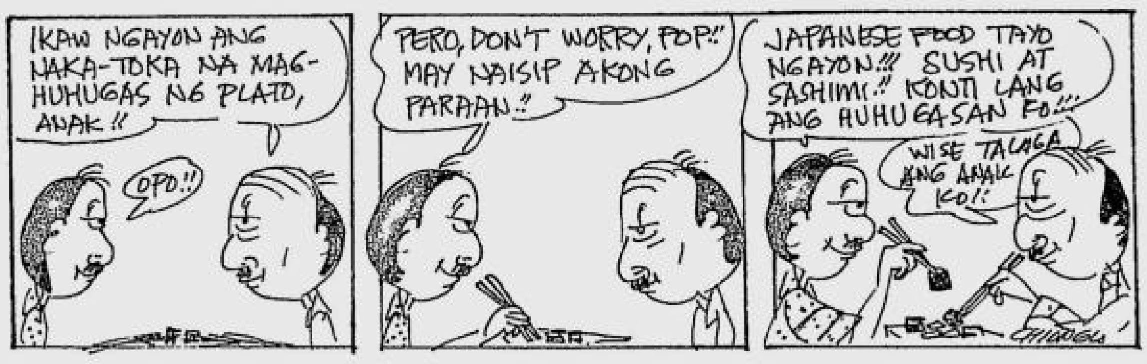
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I THOUGHT YOU WENT SOUTH!?!
I CAME BACK FOR AN ENCORE.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
10-6

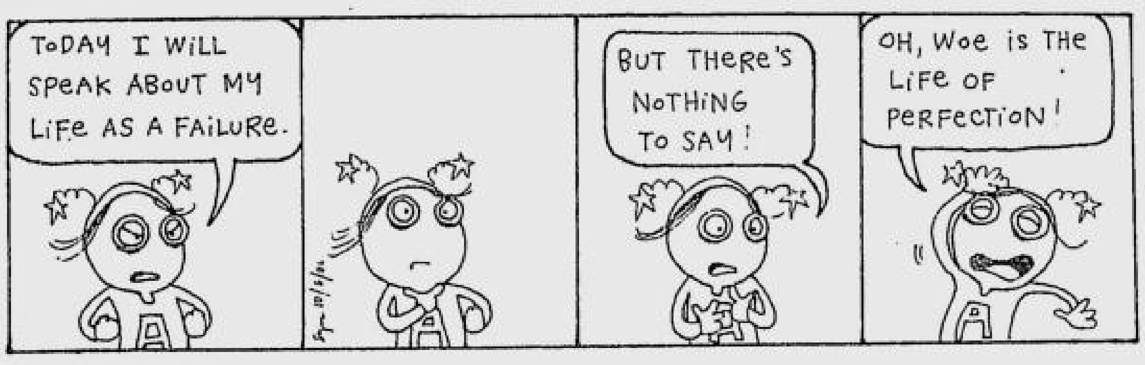
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


IKAW NGAYON ANG NAKA-TOKA NA MAG-HUHUGAS NG PLATO, ANAK!!
OPO!!
PERO, DON'T WORRY, POP!! MAY NAISIP AKONG PARAAN!!
JAPANESE FOOD TAYO NGAYON!!! SUSHI AT SASHIMI!! KONTI LANG ANG HUHUGASAN PO!!!
WISE TALAGA ANG ANAK KO!!
CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

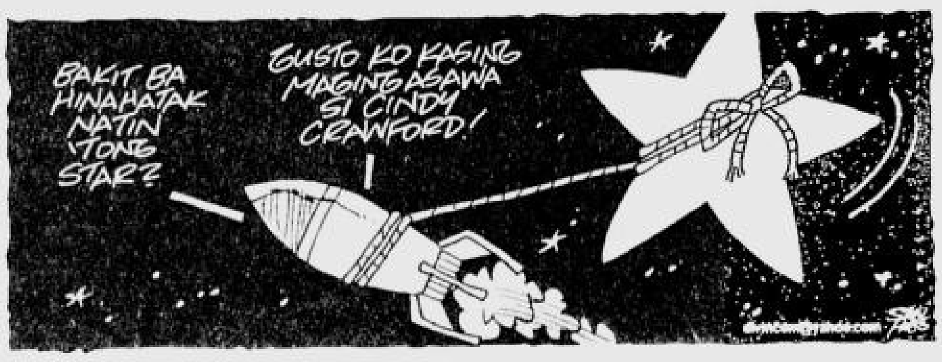
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


TODAY I WILL SPEAK ABOUT MY LIFE AS A FAILURE.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO SAY!
OH, WOE IS THE LIFE OF PERFECTION!

DIVINE COMEDY

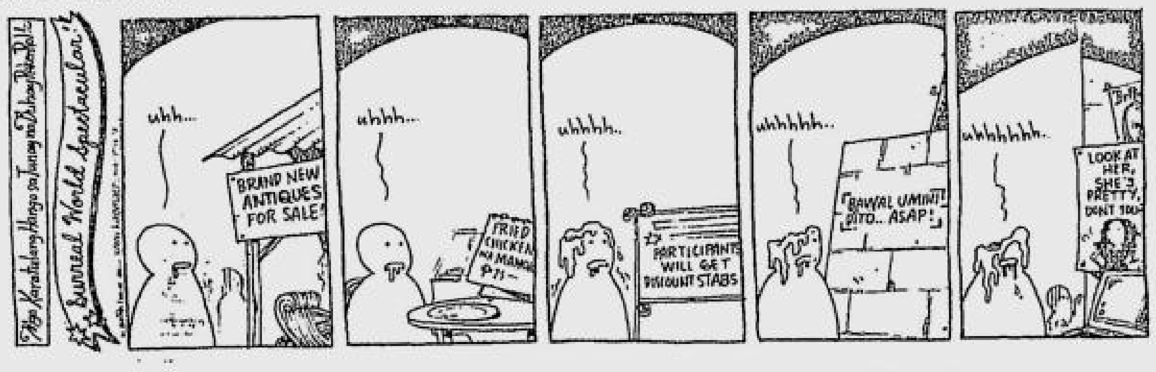
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

BINAGO NG ISANG ASTRONAUT ANG POSITION NG MGA STARS SA PANINIWALANG MAGBABAGO ANG KAPALARAN NYA


BAKIT BA HINAHATAK NATIN 'TONG STAR?
GUSTO KO KASING MAGING ASAWA SI CINDY CRAWFORD!

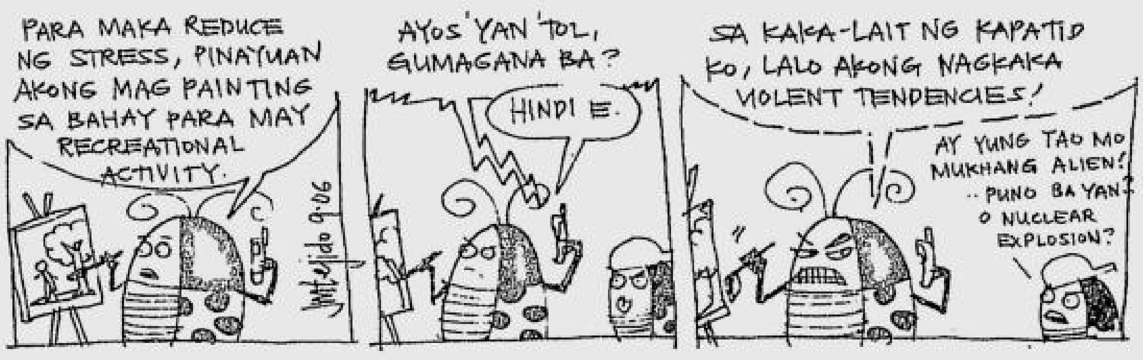
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Surreal World Spectacular!
uhh...
BRAND NEW ANTIQUES FOR SALE
uhhh...
FRIED CHICKEN NA MAMAW P11
uhhhh..
PARTICIPANTS WILL GET DISCOUNT STABS
uhhhhh..
BAWAL UMIHI DITO.. ASAP!
uhhhhhh..
LOOK AT HER, SHE'S PRETTY, DON'T YOU

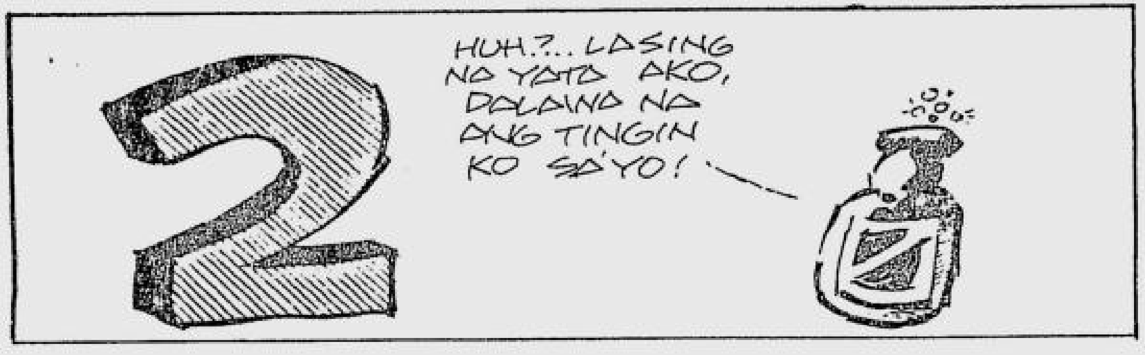
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PARA MAKA REDUCE NG STRESS, PINAYUAN AKONG MAG PAINTING SA BAHAY PARA MAY RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY.
AYOS 'YAN 'TOL, GUMAGANA BA?
HINDI E.
SA KAKA-LAIT NG KAPATID KO, LALO AKONG NAGKAKA VIOLENT TENDENCIES!
AY YUNG TAO MO MUKHANG ALIEN! ..PUNO BA YAN? O NUCLEAR EXPLOSION?
Tejido 9-06

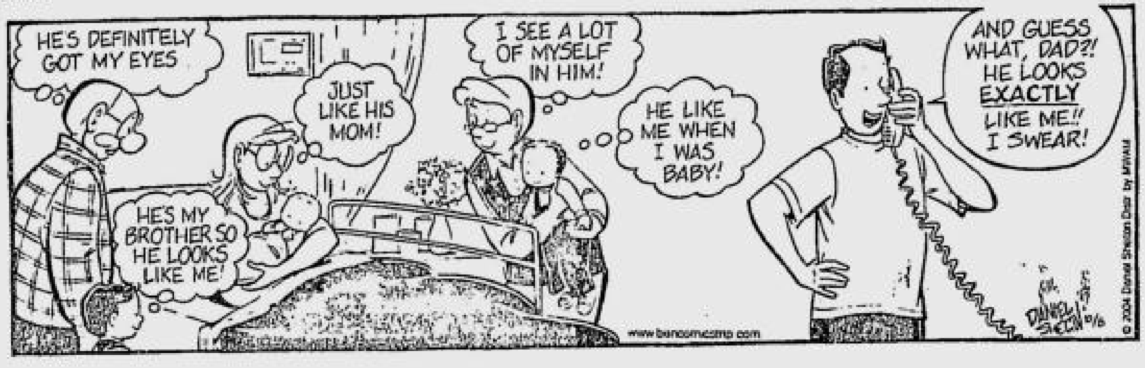
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HUH?.. LASING NA YATA AKO, DALAWA NA ANG TINGIN KO SA'YO!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HE'S DEFINITELY GOT MY EYES
JUST LIKE HIS MOM!
I SEE A LOT OF MYSELF IN HIM!
HE LIKE ME WHEN I WAS BABY!
HE'S MY BROTHER SO HE LOOKS LIKE ME!
AND GUESS WHAT, DAD?! HE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE ME!! I SWEAR!
www.bencomicstrip.com

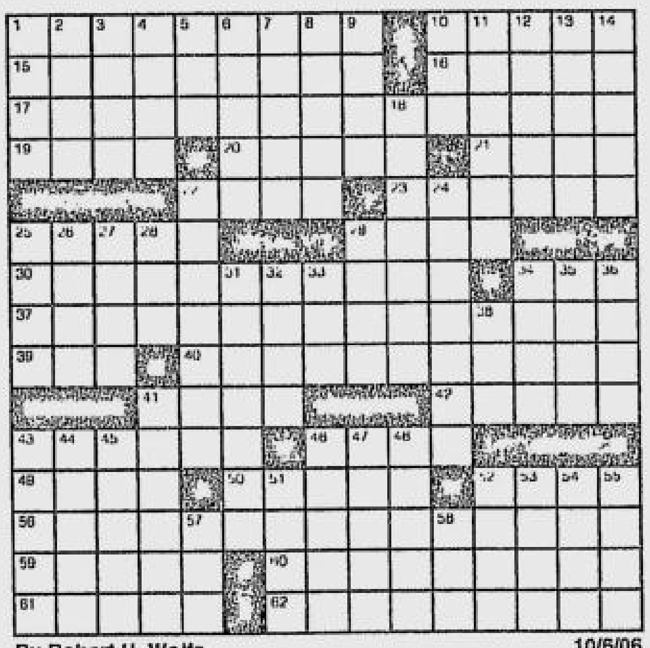
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Chasten
10 Burning
15 Suction device
16 Flat breads
17 Declarative courtroom statement
19 Actress Lamarr
20 Arbuckle of Hollywood
21 Hook's underling
22 Missive from a CEO
23 Comes in
25 Gas name
29 On the Indian
30 Hood's arms
34 Nabokov novel
37 Interrogatory sound-check statement
39 Ave. crossers
40 Raise some eyebrows
41 Lambaste
42 Wee
43 Of cordage
46 Cut with acid
49 Lipinski jump
50 Spud
52 Untidy diner
56 Exclamatory ballpark statement
59 Instant
60 Australian nut
61 Like Cheerios
62 Hold on a sec

DOWN

1 Lge. church
2 Late, great tennis player
3 Risked getting a ticket
4 In apple-pie order
5 Anger
6 Social blunder
7 Peppard's TV group
8 Scout's rider
9 Formerly, formerly
10 Mar. follower
11 Spanish holiday
12 Knocker's reply
13 Evaluator
14 Curvy letters
18 Blot on the landscape
22 Eyepiece
24 Set theory class
25 Basics
26 Castle's defense
27 Holds title to
28 Coral islet
29 Oft smelt rodent
31 Jimmy of "Red, Hot and Blue"
32 Uh...excuse me
33 Stephen of "Michael Collins"
34 Poker payment
35 Murder
36 Cockeyed
38 WNW's opposite
41 Dovetail
43 Must
44 Newsboy's shout
45 Type of scholarship
46 Wharton book, "__ Frome"
47 Third canonical hour
48 Dairy product
51 Start of a sphere?
52 Ponzi scheme, for one
53 Variety of duck?
54 Ken or Lena
55 Utter without thinking
57 Howard or Follett
58 Old name of Tokyo



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

10/6/06

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

R	I	B	■	S	E	E	M	■	S	C	A	M	P	S
E	N	E	■	A	L	P	O	■	O	R	I	O	L	E
A	S	M	I	L	E	I	S	■	L	E	N	T	E	N
M	U	O	N	■	A	C	U	R	V	E	T	H	A	T
E	R	A	S	E	■	S	L	E	E	P	■	■	■	■
R	E	N	E	G	E	■	■	G	R	E	S	H	A	M
■	■	■	C	O	L	D	E	R	■	R	H	O	D	A
T	U	T	U	■	M	A	K	E	S	■	A	T	O	P
S	N	A	R	L	■	L	E	T	S	O	N	■	■	■
P	A	L	E	A	L	E	■	■	R	A	G	M	A	N
■	■	■	■	N	O	T	R	E	■	T	H	E	R	E
E	V	E	R	Y	T	H	I	N	G	■	A	R	C	S
R	E	S	E	A	T	■	S	T	R	A	I	G	H	T
R	E	T	I	R	E	■	E	R	I	E	■	E	E	L
S	P	E	N	D	S	■	S	Y	N	C	■	D	R	E

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10/5/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a natural enthusiasm for life. In part, this is because you're always trying to make things better for others as well as yourself. This generous attitude shines! Your passion is personal as well as professional. People prize you as their friend. Your tastes are sometimes unique. Expect a social, fun-loving year ahead! Romance is blessed.

Birthdate of: Amy Jo Johnson, actress; Elisabeth Shue, actress; Le Corbusier, modernism architect.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is the only Full Moon in your sign all year. When the Moon is full, the Sun and Moon are opposing each other. This opposition creates tension between you and others. Be patient.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): At work and in your daily activities, you might try to push the river. But this is impossible! Just take things one moment at a time.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today's Full Moon could be accident-prone for children. Therefore, parents must be vigilant today. Also be patient with romantic interests.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might feel pulled between the demands of work and the demands of home and family today. At this time, you cannot ignore your domestic world.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a mildly accident-prone day for you. Be careful when driving, walking or jogging. Similarly, be careful of what suddenly pops out of your mouth. Diplomacy, please!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today's Full Moon highlights your concerns about money and possessions. You feel responsible for somebody else. You might be worried about a partner's earnings. (This will diminish in 48 hours.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is the only Full Moon this year that directly opposes your sign. For that matter, because the Sun/Moon opposition is what a Full Moon actually is, you're part of the formula! (Stay mellow.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't be too demanding of yourself today. This particular Full Moon hits you in your subconscious. You might revert to childish behavior and not even know it. (Thumb-sucking is frowned upon at work.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It feels like friends or members of a group don't agree with you today. This might be the case; however, these differences can be quickly resolved in 48 hours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Power struggles with parents, bosses and VIPs could erupt today. Others seem to demand too much of you. Just do what you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're not sure how much of yourself to put out there today or how much you want to hide at home. Just cope. (But you can't hide for long.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel unusually intense and passionate now. But you're also concerned about shared possessions and the responsibilities for others. Things will become clearer very soon.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		3	7				5	
	7			1	5	4		
9				3				
4			2					
	9	7		8		6	3	
					1			4
				9				5
		4	8	2			9	
	1				6	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/06

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	5	3	9	6	1	7	4	2
7	2	1	4	5	8	9	6	3
6	4	9	7	2	3	5	1	8
4	7	6	8	3	9	1	2	5
1	9	2	6	4	5	8	3	7
3	8	5	1	7	2	4	9	6
2	3	4	5	9	7	6	8	1
9	1	7	2	8	6	3	5	4
5	6	8	3	1	4	2	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

Mr. John shows it's still better to give than to receive

JOHN Gokongwei at 80. Successful businessman, fulfilled father, humanitarian and philanthropist

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

MEGA TAIPAN **John Gokongwei Jr.**, a gentleman with a huge golden heart and one of the country's foremost philanthropists, surprised invitees to his 80th birthday celebration, *palanggas*, when he announced he was donating half of his shares in his company, the JG Summit Holdings, to the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation.

The astonishing, surprising, but most welcome announcement was made at the grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza in Ortigas, during his super bash which, by the way, *palanggas*, coincided with the 50th anniversary celebration of his corporation.

John Gokongwei's unprecedented donation and his plans "to devote the rest of my life to charity" drew wild, endless applause and admiration from the more than a thousand diplomats, heavyweight business partners, executives of the country's top corporations, and his *famille, natch*!

Hot hotshot namedroppables included Sycip-Gorres-Velayo founder **Washington Sycip**; Benpres' **Oscar Lopez**; Smart's **Polly Nazareno**; former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governors **Gabriel Singson** and **José Cuisia**; former prime minister **Cesar Virata**; National Book Store's grand lady and founder **Socorro Ramos**; Jollibee CEO **Tony Tan Caktiong**; McDonald's **George Yang**; Italy's Ambassador **Rubens Fedele**; Singapore's Ambassador **Lim Kweng Hwa**; and Philippine Stock Exchange head **Robert Coyiuto**, *palanggas*.

Apres the superb gastronomic feast, a tribute to the celebrator's life was presented, with a stellar cast that included world-class performers **Lea Salonga**, **Robert Seña** and **Isay Alvarez**; **Jay-R** and The Company. The mega event was excellently organized by Stratworks and directed by **Floy Quintos**, no less.

It definitely was a memorable happening for an unmatchable gentleman—John Gokongwei.

Swinging bash

One of the world's best-selling super tequilas, 1800 Tequila, hosted a swinging bash with the gorgeous **Crystal** as emcee. **Mocha** and her band had the invitees rocking, *palanggas*.

As a prelude to this hot happening, master DJ **Boyet Almazan** played tunes from the '80s. He was followed by DJ **Manolet Dario**, who turned the night into a zesty, pulsating experience with his house music. Booze was on the house, the "open bar" lasting way past 3 a.m. and putting smiles on the faces of **Dennis Lim**, senior commercial manager of José Cuervo International, and **Philip Opiasa**, brand manager for 1800 Tequila.

Moi discovered that the José Cuervo *famille* produces the range of super premium 1800 Tequila, made from 100-percent blue agave grown in the highlands of Jalisco, Mexico. The area's high altitude and volcanic soil produce some of the finest blue agave in the region.

The portfolio of super premium tequilas includes top-of-the-line 1800 Silver, 1800 Reposado and 1800 Anejo.

The first super premium silver tequila, Silver is clean and delicate, gently mellowed in American and French oak barrels for a smooth taste and a tasty core of buttery oak. It has mild agave notes highlights, with aromas of orange peels, yummy vanilla, as well as butterscotch.

Well, no wonder the tons of invitees had a real hot night downing all that tequila, *palanggas*.

The 1800 Tequila is exclusively distributed by Premier Wine and Spirits Inc.

Soaring

With the high-flying theme "Come Fly with Me" and "captain" **Anthony Pangilinan** and "flight crew member" **Agot Isidro** as hosts, the happening transported us to the "world of enviable luxury." It was presented by the only card you'll need when you travel, the new Equitable PCI Bank Travel Card Titanium MasterCard.

Perfect for both business or leisure travelers, the new card has fantastic offerings like exclusive travel privileges from PoloAir Travel and Tours, access to airport VIP lounges worldwide through Priority Pass, domestic and international insurance of up to a mind-boggling P20 million, plus tons of other privileges, dahlings.

Equitable hot hotshot officials proudly welcomed everyone at the Ayala Museum, *palanggas*. Agot Isidro and the Hotlegs gave us a wild, exciting tour of some of the fabulous destinations. The Gurano band's hot beat sent many invitees partying way past Cinderella's curfew, *palanggas*.

To celebrate the card's travel features, ECN handed out pre-approved cards that invitees swiped on wireless terminals to book discounted travel packages, available only for that one evening, from PoloAir Travel and Tours.

Guests also visited the "Ode to the Pasig River" exhibit at the Ayala Museum. Proceeds went to the rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

ECN also raffled off tons of awesome $1,000, $800 and $500 worth of cool shopping credits loaded into the three winners' pre-approved cards, would you believe?

With all the action and booze around, it's no wonder, *palanggas*, that, well, almost all the invitees were in a flying mood.

Christmas bazaar

You know Christmas is just a few sleeps away when you start hearing Christmas songs on the radio and when tons of bazaars are being held.

The Venture 7 Bazaar, *palanggas*, will be held Sunday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel InterContinental Manila. One of the most popular bazaars, it will have loads of new young entrepreneur-participants and a wide array of fab items from, take note: India, China, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, plus other places, *palanggas*.

For more information, call 8103307, 8439507; (Jen) 8150669 and 3723083/84. The second bazaar will be on Dec. 3. Major credit cards will be accepted, dahlings.

JOEY Untalan, Sheryl Crystal, Alan Rufino and Teddy Dario

BOYET Sison

FRAN Ribaño, 1800 Tequila brand manager Philip Opiasa and Jelen Perlas

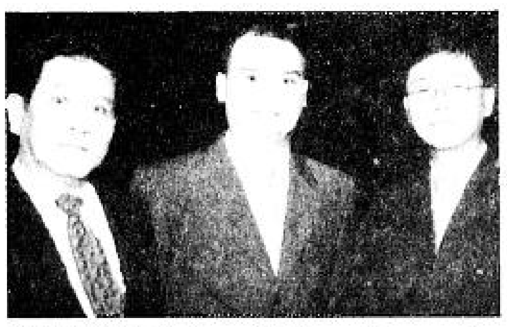
MARTIN Santos and Stephen Ku

DESIGNERS and retailers Mimi and Juliet Tan

CAROL Almazan, Gina Aguilar and Lani Sycip

PRINCE of Jaipur's Max Talreja

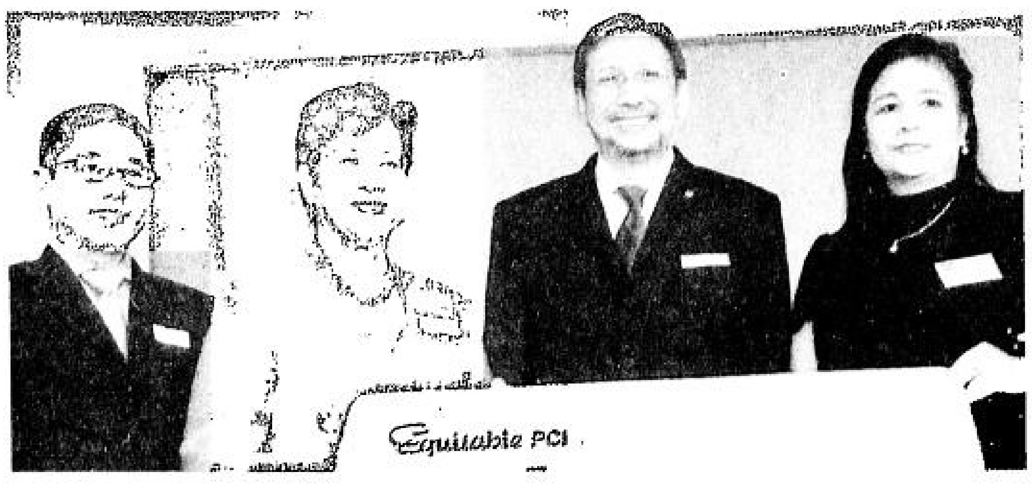
KAILASH Ramchandani, Benz Weys, Teddy and Janine Dario


RICARDO Celestino of ECN, southern gent Anton Corro of MasterCard and Harry Gue of ECN

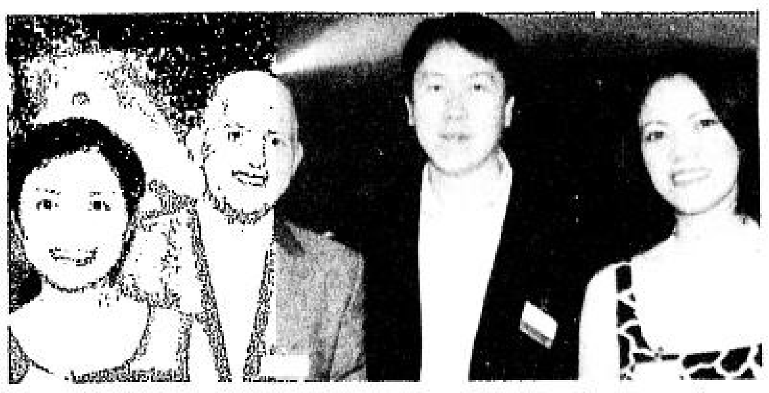
ECN'S Anna Marie Cruz and PoloAir's Leah Martinez

OPHELIA Camina, Sergio Naranjilla Jr. and Marili Tioseco

MASTERCARD'S Judith Dayrit



HOTSHOTS: Rolando Tanchanco, ECN director; Corazon de la Paz, EPCIB chair and ECN director; Walter Wassmer, EPCIB senior executive vice president; and Anna Marie Cruz, ECN assistant vice president for marketing

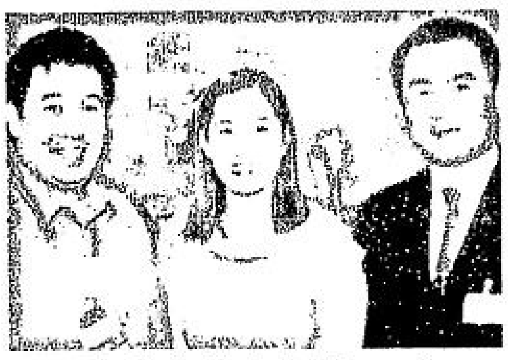

ROBINA Gokongwei-Pe, Graham Coates, Mark Tionkunsun and Malou Torres of the Robinsons Retail Group

HEIR to the throne Lance Gokongwei

GO GALS. Patricia Go, Liza Gokongwei Cheng and twins Hope Tang and Faith Lim

JAMES Go, John Gokongwei's youngest brother and chair/CEO of JG Summit

INQUIRER president and CEO Sandy Prieto Romualdez, Elizabeth Gokongwei, **INQUIRER** chair Marixi Prieto and Robinsons Homes GM Malu Alferez


FAITH Lim flanked by Paul da Roca and Ministop's Kinuhiko Yoshihara

LEA Salonga serenades John Gokongwei.

FORMER Sen. Nikki Coseteng

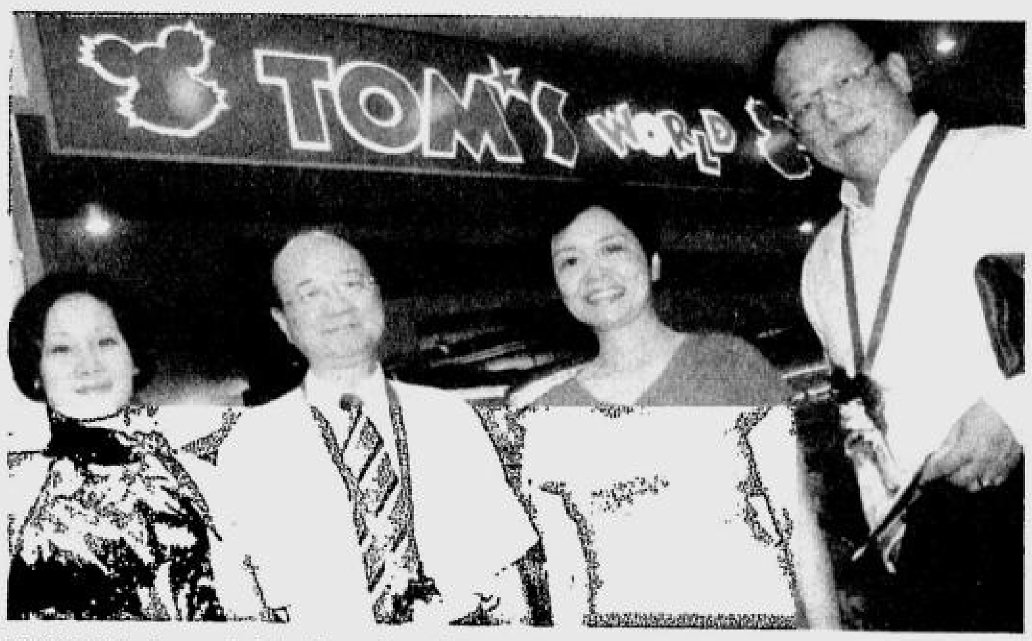
JAY-R and John Gokongwei's granddaughter Therese, with the Whiplash

VENTURE 7 gals at the planning session in Singapore. Fortune Ledesma, Fanny Blanco, Pilie Aquino, Lita Gelano. Second row: Celine Bautista, Chit Gohu and Linda Villadelgado

TOYS R US
HALLOWEEN BOOTIQUE
RAFFLE PROMO
Sept. 25 - Nov. 15, 2006
Thrilling Toys
at stake for every P500 worth of purchase
1 winner of iPod Nano (2GB)
1 winner of Sony Playstation 2
Plus!
15 Spooky Cool Toy Packages
1 winner of Samsung SGH-X670 Cellphone
4th Level

Mini theme park in a mall

TOM'S WORLD, THE INDOOR RECREATIONAL center operator, will open a mini theme park-inspired outlet at 4/L Robinson's Galleria beside Toys R Us. Facilities include prize and ticket redemption machines, driving and shooting arcades, kiddie rides, dance and music games, sports games plus videoke rooms contained in a 2,000-square meter facility. Online games/network gaming will also be offered. The Party Room is available for exclusive events. Tom's World also operates amusement centers in Robinsons Place-Angeles, Robinsons Place Pioneer and Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa.


TIFFANY Sy-Lee and chair Henry Lee of Tom's World, group GM and SVP of Robinsons Retail Group Robina Gokongwei-Pe, and Tom's World president Peter Kho

BAZAAR. Venture 7 will hold its annual bazaar Oct. 8, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental in Manila. Unique items will be on sale. Call 8103307, 8439507, 8150669 and 3723083-84. The second bazaar is set Dec. 3.

MANGYAN FESTIVAL. Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro will celebrate the Kaaldawan Iraya Festival Oct. 12. The event will showcase the unique and rich culture, including products, of the Mangyan native tribe. It also aims to promote, protect and preserve the tribe's traditions. Highlights include Kasalang Iraya, a native wedding ceremony; Kubol contest, a competition in building a traditional hut; and indigenous sports contests. The festival is a collaborative effort of the tourism and mayor's offices and other local government agencies. Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab and Regional 4 Director Louella Jurilla are expected to attend.

ANNIVERSARY PROMO. WalterMart is celebrating the seventh year of its membership in the International Grocers Alliance (IGA), the world's largest network of supermarkets. Founded by Wilson Lim, the country's first and only shopping place affiliated with IGA marks the anniversary with its "80 seconds Shopping Spree" promo. Customers get a chance to win cash prizes, groceries and gift checks. Every P200 worth of purchase of participating products entitles a customer to a raffle coupon. Promo ends Oct. 15. Twelve winners will be chosen during the raffle draw Oct. 21.

PRE-HOLIDAY SALE. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall holds pre-Christmas sale Oct. 13-15, offering up to 70 percent discounts on a wide selection of goods from over 250 boutiques and specialty stores. Establishments include Sta. Lucia's department store, supermarket, Home Gallery and Planet Toys. With a single purchase of P500, get a raffle coupon for the Grand 16th Anniversary Blowout of Prizes Promo. Shoppers can win home appliances and gift certificates. A single receipt of P3,000 and above doubles the chance of winning. Call 6815401.

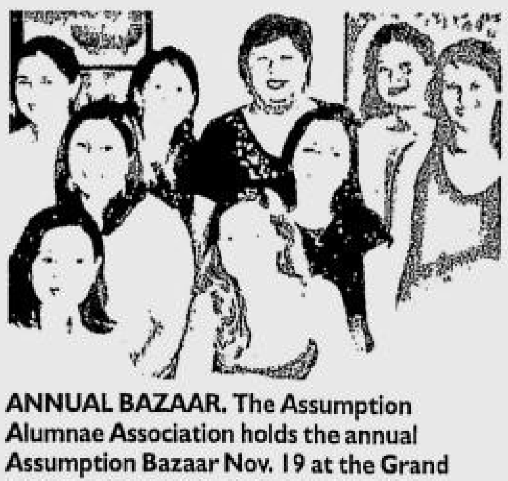
DISCOUNTS. Plaza Fair Cagayan de Oro is holding a Clearance Sale until Oct. 8. Enjoy up to 50 percent discount on selected items. November is Halloween Sale at all Plaza Fair Stores. Big discounts are available Oct. 26-28.

CLASS PROGRAMS. First Academy of Computer Arts located at 2/F Saville Bldg., 8728 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, has announced its new class offerings and schedules. The school offers programs in Digital Arts, 3D animation, Web Design, Digital Photography and Digital Filmmaking. Free workshops on 3D and cartoon animation are also scheduled. Class schedules are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:30-5:30 p.m. and 6-9 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-5:30 p.m.; or Sundays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 8982724-26 and 8975502 or log on to www.firstacademy.net.

ANNIVERSARY BLOWOUT. Robinsons Place Lipa and Robinsons Place Dasmariñas celebrate its 3rd anniversary by rewarding its loyal shoppers with big sale events and prizes. Sale events for Robinsons Place Dasmariñas is set Oct. 13-15 while Robinsons Place Lipa is extending its sale event until Oct. 22. This month, Robinsons Place Dasmariñas and Robinsons Place Lipa hold a raffle promo which will run until Oct. 31. Call 6836137/6100 local 780 or 782.

ENGLISH SEMINARS. Corban Learning Center is offering a new series of Easy English seminars every Saturday and Sunday starting Oct. 7-8, 14-15, 2-5 p.m. Corban also schedules weekday courses as required. Call 8426665, 8093050 or 0917-6297718.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS. Natural health products and wellness services will be highlighted at the Beauty and Fitness World 2006, the third professional exhibit for cosmetics, personal care, wellness and fitness industry, Oct. 10-12 at the World Trade Center in Roxas Boulevard. Call 8558342/45.


ANNUAL BAZAAR. The Assumption Alumnae Association holds the annual Assumption Bazaar Nov. 19 at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental in Makati. Assumption College Class '81 Bazaar organizers: Seated from left (front row): Marisyl Ples Pengson, Maricris Cardenas Zobel; (second row) Sonsoles Erquiaga Baretto, Joan Soler Crespo and AC College Class '81 president Jacqueline Dayrit Boncan; (third row) Rona Anido, Gina Gabaldon Hechanova, Pamsy Lopez Tioseco and Evelyn del Rosario Garcia.

Shiok! II
Singapore

Shiok! is back... with even more exciting things in store for Filipino tourists. Shiok is Singlish for great or wonderful! Now is the best time to visit Singapore for exciting events, attractions, shopping, the food AND the chance to win big prizes!

To Qualify:
- Filipino tourists traveling together as a group of [illegible] or more
- Must depart for Singapore between Sept. 15 and Dec. 15, 2006
- Must stay for a minimum of [illegible] nights

Shiok! Nights
The longer you stay, the more your chances of winning!

Shiok! Spend
The more you spend while in Singapore, the more your chances of winning!

PLUS, you get to win exciting "Ikam-Ikam" prizes!

Shiok! Loyalty
Just by joining this promo, previously registered participants of Year 2005's Shiok! Singapore will receive a unique souvenir item as an additional token of appreciation.

Singapore Tourism Board

So visit your favorite travel agent and book your trip to Singapore NOW. For details, see flyers or call Singapore Tourism Board-Philippines in Manila at (632) 8130846, SilkAir-Royal Winds in Cebu at (032) 2326211 loc 208, or SilkAir in Davao at (082) 2211039 or (082) 2245608.

Our Events Calendar

October
[illegible]

November
[illegible]

December
[illegible]

UNIQUELY Singapore
[illegible]

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or **email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Papa Pitt high on flying, Shiloh and Angelina, Part I

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"DON'T MESS around with me, man," **Brad Pitt** quipped, his famous blue eyes smiling when a journalist remarked that only two years ago, he said he was ready to be a father.

Now, he has not one but three children.

In an unprecedented freewheeling interview at the Universal Hilton, his first with our press group since he began his much-publicized relationship with **Angelina Jolie**, Brad Pitt talked about Angie, fatherhood, the issues he believes in and Mexican director Alejandro González Iñárritu's "Babel," his stunning new film.

In gray shirt and jeans, Brad, 43, is younger looking and a lot more boyish in person.

When he was asked to stand by to pose for pictures, he asked, "What am I supposed to do for five minutes?" And then he broke into a brief dance which would have elicited shrieks from his millions of fans had they been there.

Talking for the first time on a variety of subjects, he smiled and leaned forward when the topics were obviously close to his heart and mind, like flying planes and putting his celebrity status to positive use like in environmental activism.

He shook his head emphatically when he named two things that irritate him the most. Sometimes he rocked back in his chair. Reflexively, he occasionally wet his lips.

The only time he refused to answer was when he was asked what he was good at. "You stumped me there," he told a reporter. "It's really not for me to say."

We got to throw the first question—about his emotionally charged scene in "Babel" where his character speaks by phone to his toddler son.

A story (written by **Guillermo Arriaga** based on his and Alejandro's idea) about how one rifle shot in the desert affects four families in Morocco, Los Angeles, Mexico and Japan, "Babel" is superbly directed by Alejandro ("Amores Perros," "21 Grams"), who won the Best Director prize at last May's Cannes Film festival for this film.

Alejandro's achievement is doing justice to the milieu in each of the four locations and interrelated stories, drawing fine performances from all (and we mean everybody) in the cast, from Brad (made up to look older, with graying hair), **Cate Blanchett** and **Gael Garcia Bernal** to the Japanese, Mexican and Moroccan cast.

The latter group, recruited from announcements blared from mosque speakers, acted for the very first time before cameras. A Japanese actress, **Rinko Kikuchi**, is terrific in a daring role (more about her in another column).

The obsession with Brangelina has overshadowed the couple's impressive philanthropic efforts. Each of them recently made a gift of $1 million to two humanitarian organizations, Global Action for Children and Doctors Without Borders.

"I've seen 'The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl' about 18 times," declared Brad who has patiently watched this kiddie favorite with **Shiloh Nouvel**, his four-month-old biological daughter with Angelina, and their adopted children, **Maddox Chivan** and **Zahara Marley**.

During the interview, Brad, who was divorced from **Jennifer Aniston** last year, was the first to downplay his public speaking skills.

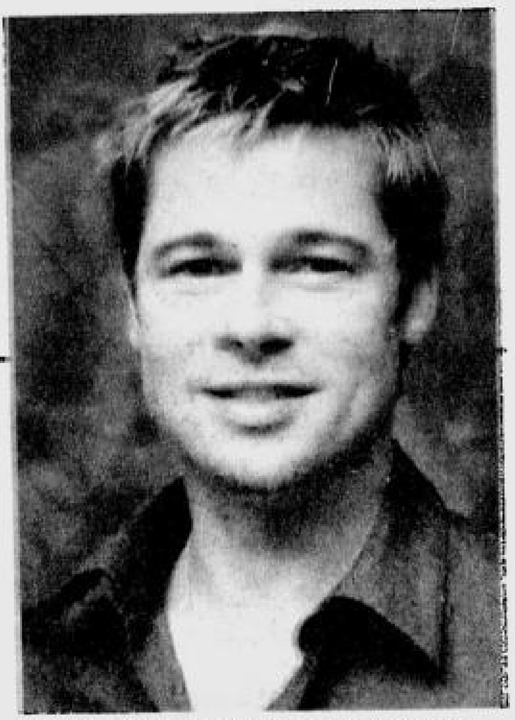
Smiling, he quipped as he began to respond to a question, "Let me just sit here and stutter for about five minutes and I'll come up with an answer."

I was moved by that scene where your character is talking to his son on the phone. He is trying to sound normal but he couldn't control his emotions. Does that scene pack more emotional wallop for you since you're now a father?

That scene means a lot more to me now. That moment is about the idea of losing almost everything and what that would mean. Sometimes we can't see the wonderful things

PAPA/E2

ALEJANDRO González Iñárritu and Brad Pitt on the set of "Babel."



BRAD Pitt: "Having kids makes me more efficient."

I'm not a priest!
I do!
I don't!
CONFUSED

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1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA • THX
12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00

2 THE DEPARTED
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

3 FLY BOYS
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

4 PULSE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

5 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

6 FIRST DAY HIGH
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 DEAD OR ALIVE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

8 ZOOM
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

9 STEP UP
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10.00

ERMITA 638-7809 to 12

1 THE DEPARTED 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 FLY BOYS 11:20 2:00 4:40
STEP UP 7:40 10:00

4 FIRST DAY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 DEAD OR ALIVE
12.30 2:50 5:10 7.30 10:00

6 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
11:45 1:45 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

7 PULSE
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8183 • 682-8198

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 FIRST DAY HIGH
11:15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:10

3 THE DEPARTED
11:20 2:30 5:40 9:00

4 FLY BOYS
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

5 STEP UP
12:00 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

6 ZOOM
1:00 3.00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 PULSE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

8 THE BREED
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:30 9:10

NOVALICHES 936-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE DEPARTED
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 PULSE
4 FLY BOYS

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2574

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2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 RESERVE
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2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 ZOOM
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

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2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 POSSESSED BY EVIL
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2 TWILIGHT DANCERS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
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3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 CRANK
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THE BREED
PHILIPPINE IDOL
FIRST DAY HIGH
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PULSE
POSSESSED BY EVIL
WICKER MAN

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THE BREED
CRANK
DEAD OR ALIVE
STEP UP
FIRST DAY HIGH
THE DEPARTED
ZOOM
PULSE
YOU ARE THE ONE
FLY BOYS
MONSTER HOUSE

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STEP UP
FIRST DAY HIGH
WICKER MAN
THE BREED
YOU ARE THE ONE
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DEAD OR ALIVE
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FIRST DAY HIGH

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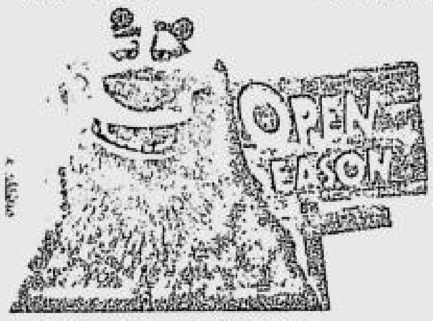

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SNAKES ON A PLANE
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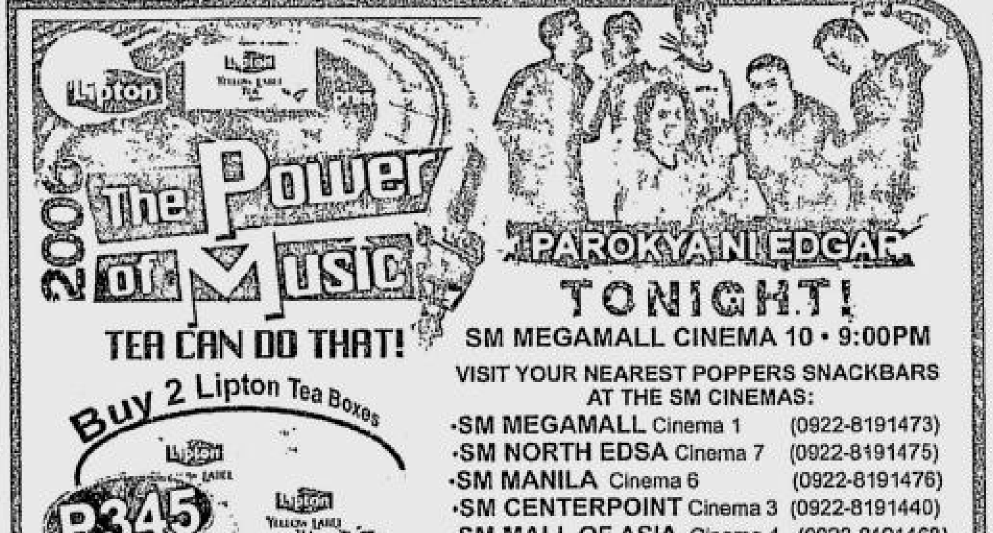

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Papa Pitt high on flying …

From page E1

in our lives, the wonderful people. When Richard, my character, hears his son's voice as he talks about something so innocuous but so beautiful, a thunderbolt of realization hits him: I could have lost all of these. From that moment on, his life would hopefully change.

What is it like being a father now that you have three kids.

Three a year so next year I'll have six (laughter). Nine total. We're looking for a soccer team.

How has fatherhood changed your life?

It makes me much more efficient. I do everything faster because there's no time for messing around. I value what I'm doing. I mean, I still value my work but at the same time, I value the part about getting home to the kids. It makes me stealthier in my attack of things. In a funny way, though, it doesn't make work inconsequential. It makes the work mean more because I know that somewhere down the road, my kids will see my movies. I approach everything now by considering what it might or could potentially mean to them down the road.

How did you manage to co-produce two potentially award-winning films, "The Departed" and "Running With Scissors," on top of your duties as actor, father and supporter of humanitarian causes?

I work with good people. Maybe turning 40 has something to do with it as well. There were certain things that I wanted to attack and they seemed to work. Having kids makes me more efficient, too. I'm very proud of these films. That's a whole other aspect of the business. Actors can only work in certain roles but being a producer opens up opportunities. I get to work on films and stories that mean something to me or films that I wouldn't normally fit in like "Running With Scissors." It is a real joy.

What was it like working in the middle of nowhere in Morocco without the distraction of the paparazzi?

They did not have a clue we were there. We had to drive an hour to get to this village that was in the middle of like a lunar landscape. They didn't have electricity. They brought it in for the film. They ran a (power) line and we were able to leave it there afterward which was nice.

Cate says "I peed" in one scene but it is probably one of the most touching scenes.

Yes, it was very intimate. That goes back to Alejandro and Guillermo's writing. They threw in

PAPA/ E3

Papa Pitt high on flying, Shiloh and Angelina, Part I

From page E2

something as human and mundane as having to take a piss and worked it into this intimate moment. The moment spoke volumes about their history, who they once were and what they could be together. But don't listen to me. Whatever Cate said, it's right. Cate has an uncanny insight and I would go with her response before mine.

How does your involvement with humanitarian causes seep into your acting career?

I know it has to seep into acting in some way. Maybe not in "Ocean's 13" (laughter) but in some way. This film relates to me on that level.

Does this movie speak closer to you?

Yes, because it parallels my belief that what is most lacking is an understanding of each other. It's a strange thing with globalization, we're more connected to others and yet, there are more conflicts than ever. It has something to do with a lack of understanding and of talking to each other.

On a lighter note, do you have your pilot's license yet?

Yes, I do.

What is it about flying that you love so much?

Well, I can't be followed, which is the first plus. Angie has been flying for a while so the second plus is the idea that it's like throwing the kids in the back of a Suburban and having some freedom. There's the freedom in the air and a real sense of accomplishment. Flying is this amazing marriage of human ability with nature and machine. Any one of these can go wrong at any moment so there's a real call for focus and attention up there. I'm telling you it can go wrong seriously fast but it's a real pleasure. To be 40 and still be able to achieve things that are personal is a rewarding experience.

What kind of planes do you fly?

We have the beginner planes. Little ones.

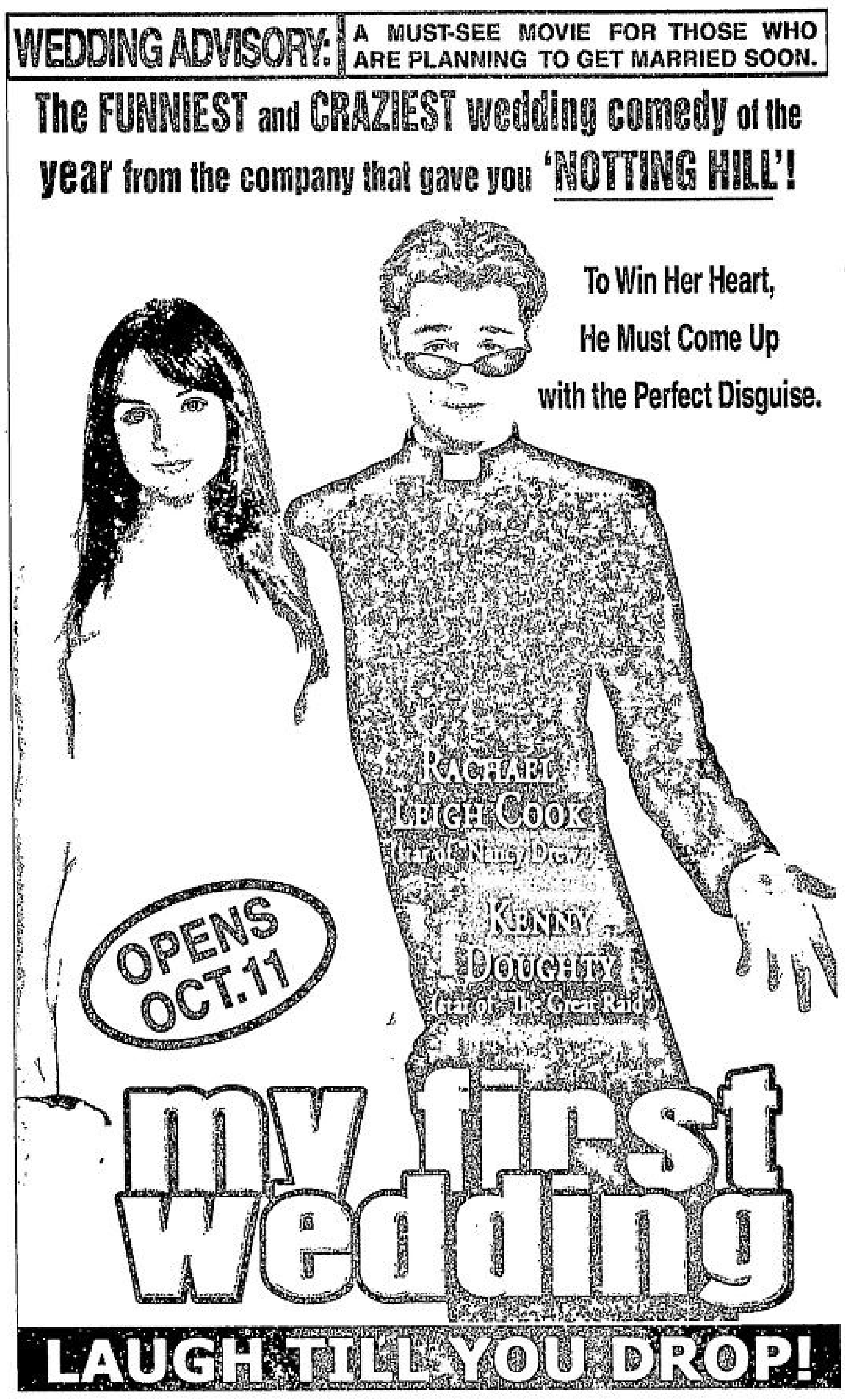
Was there a movie that inspired you to become an actor?

No, but strangely enough, I like "Saturday Night Fever" (laughter). I did. I loved it. But it wasn't because of the bad suits and the dancing although I can do the hustle as I've proven today. I didn't know people could live like that (until I saw that movie). I had only seen my corner of the world which was Oklahoma and Missouri. That there are other complete ways to attack life—this idea of a different culture—I got most intrigued by. I've always liked films. I remember watching "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" in kindergarten.

What inspired you then?

A week before I was supposed to graduate from college, everyone had applied for jobs and was receiving offers. I hadn't applied anywhere. I didn't have a clue nor did I have any interest to go somewhere. But it occurred to me and I've always thought, I wish I'd grown up in New York or LA because I could watch films in those cities. It just struck me one night that I can do it. So within that week, I decided I was going to LA. But I had no money so I worked for a couple of weeks. Then I loaded up the car and went to LA. I did not go back to my college classes. I did not graduate.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.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my first wedding
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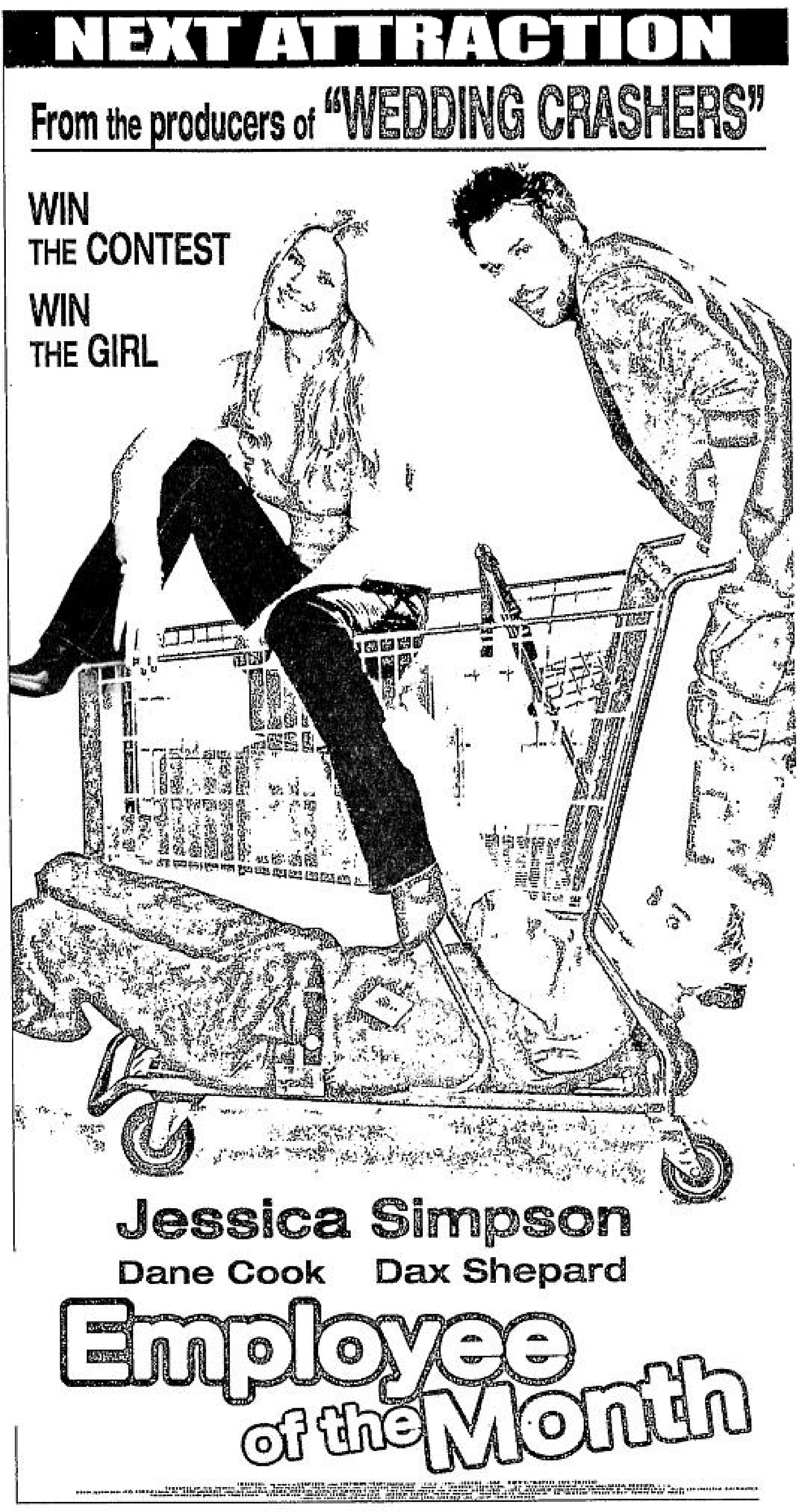
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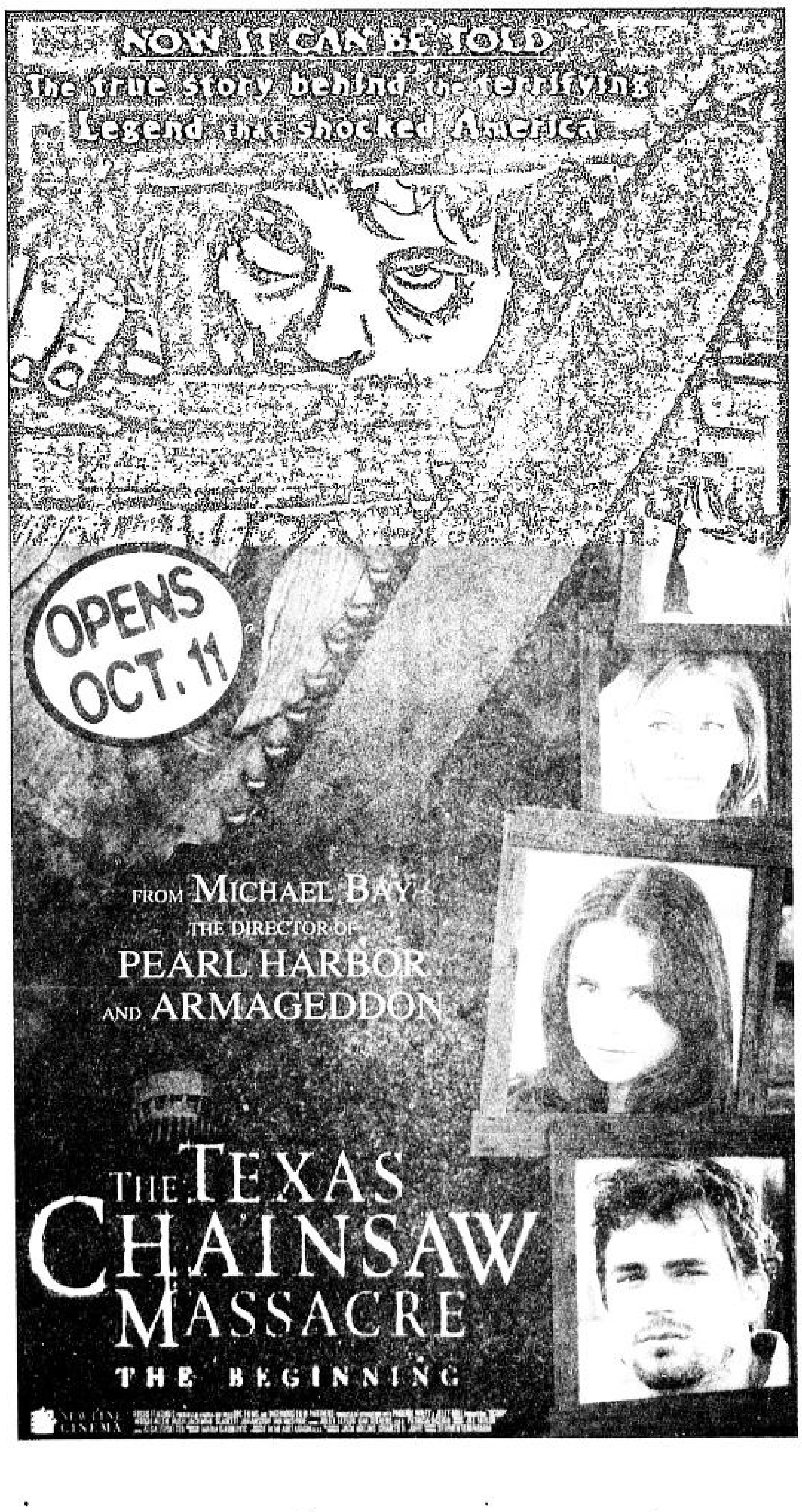
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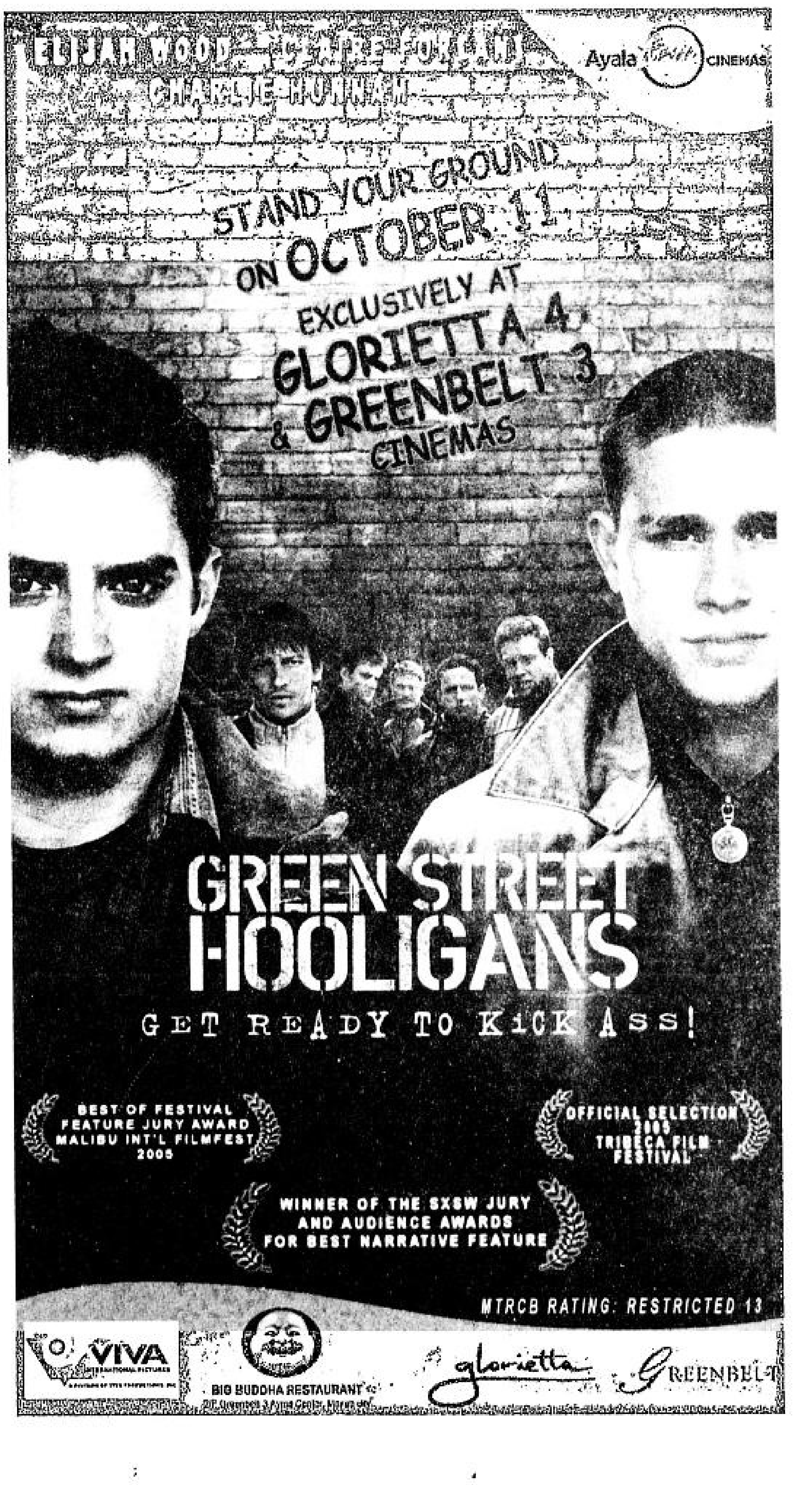
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Sa Primetime Bida

Bituing
Walang
Ningning
The Grand Finale

Pagkatapos ng Super Inggo
Sa Primetime Bida

ABS-CBN
ANGATANG PINOY

LIVING Stars

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

TAIL TALES

REGINE VELASQUEZ

My Shih Tzu George is a gift from (good friend, fellow singer and "S.O.P." co-host) Jaya. He's now a year and four months old. I dress him up in cute outfits and always put imported perfume on him. Most of his clothes are from sponsor K9 Couture, owned by Michael de Mesa. I only use John Paul shampoo on him. I take George everywhere, except when I have concert tours abroad. I miss him so much whenever we're apart. I'm so attached to him. In fact, George sleeps with me in the same bed.

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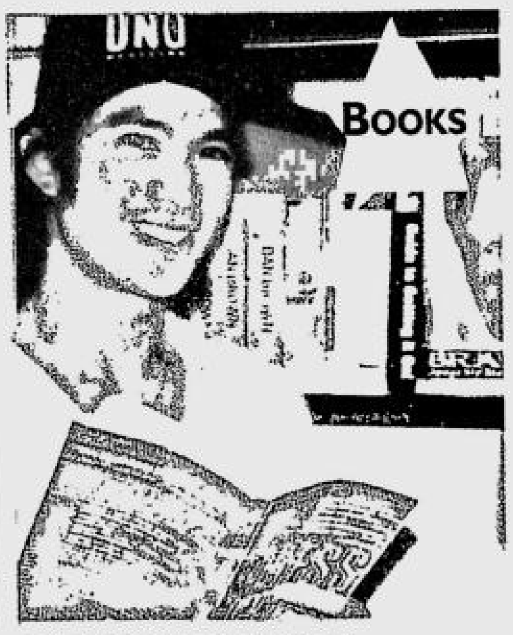
FAVORITE NOOKS

MICHAEL DE MESA

My bedroom is laid-back, comfortable and neat. This is where I relax and indulge in things I love like reading books (James Patterson novels) and watching TV shows ("24" and "Nip/Tuck") and movies ("Garden State," "Elizabethtown" and "Coach Carter") on DVD. It's very private. It makes me feel safe, far from the maddening crowd. I also eat here. Also in the photo are my babies: Chanel the Yorkie and Tiffany the Chihuahua.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

BOOKS



DIETHER OCAMPO

Now, I'm reading "Stress for Success" by James E. Loehr. It's about stress management and handling problems in life. It made me realize that stress is a condition that helps you grow as a person. That stress makes you push yourself to the limit and discover how fast you can recover from a setback. I appreciate challenges because I know I can learn from them. I also got a copy of "The Four Agreements" by Don Miguel Ruiz in Mexico.

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SOON TO OPEN: MARKET MARKET & MALABON CITY SQUARE

We can't do anything about sequels. But we can tell you their schedule.

Luk4 mobile-yellowpages

Get movie screening schedules on your mobile with Luk4 Mobile Yellow Pages. Save "Luk4" under the number 2851 (for Globe), 2951 (for Smart), and 2851 (for Sun) in your contacts list, then text Luk4 MOVIES <title> or <cinema> and send to Luk4. For more info, text Luk4 HELP and send to Luk4, or log on to www.luk4.com.

Php 2.50 per message sent to Globe & Smart, Php 2.00 for Sun.

OPENS OCTOBER 11

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

WHEN LIVES ARE ON THE LINE, SACRIFICE EVERYTHING.
KEVIN COSTNER
ASHTON KUTCHER
THE GUARDIAN
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE FUGITIVE"

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

BUY A NOKIA PHONE
RIDE YOUR OWN MOTOR BIKE

DIVOOM SPEAKERS (26 pcs.)
DVD PLAYERS (20 pcs.)
7.3 kg. single Tub WASHING MACHINES (6 pcs.)
SHARP 21" flat TV (10 pcs.)
6.4 cu. ft. KELVINATOR REFRIGERATORS (4 pcs.)

PROMO MECHANICS:

- For every purchase of any Nokia Warranty phones (phonekit not included) at all participating Wellcom branches and MP3 kiosk nationwide, the customer can avail of the promo raffle ticket.
- Promo period is from October 4 – November 23, 2006.
- Customers shall fill up the raffle coupon with his/her name, address, telephone no. date of purchase, invoice number, store, and affix his/her signature and drop in drop boxes located at WELLCOM stores nationwide.
- Prizes to be given away are as follows.

1st Raffle Draw
Grand Prize: One (1) Suzuki Raider 150cc Motorcycle
Consolation Prizes:
Two (2) kelvinator 6.4 cu. ft. Ref
Five (5) Sharp 21 inch Flat TV
Three (3) Sharp 7.3 kg. single Tub Washing Machine
Thirteen (13) Divoom/3DVA1SPK01 Entertainment Speaker
Ten (10) small PENSONIC DVD PLAYER

2nd Raffle Draw
Grand Prize: One (1) Suzuki Raider 150cc Motorcycle
Consolation Prizes:
Two (2) kelvinator 6.4 cu. ft. Ref
Five (5) Sharp 21 inch Flat TV
Three (3) Sharp 7.3 kg. single Tub Washing Machine
Thirteen (13) Divoom/3DVA1SPK01 Entertainment Speaker
Ten (10) small PENSONIC DVD PLAYER

- All draws will be held at Wellcom Telecom Supermarket head Office at JMBC Bldg. Zansibar St. Cor. Rockefeller St. Brgy San Isidro, Makati City at 2.00pm : Draw Dates 1st Draw October 31, 2006 2nd Draw November 29, 2006
- As a winner Nokia Representative shall verify the IMEI No.
- A participants may only win once in every draw, should a participant be drawn more than once, he/she gets the price with a higher value
- Winners will be notified through registered mail as to when, where and how to claim the prizes. Winners will be posted in all Wellcom Telecom Supermarket Stores and its website.
- Winners shall shoulder the 20% Tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00
- All prizes are not transferable or convertible to cash.
- In Claiming their prizes, winners must present the registeres mail, winning raffle coupon and valid I.D. (Passport, Driver's License, Postal ID, School ID etc) at the Wellcom Telecom Supermarket Head Office. JMBC Bldg., Zansibar St. Cor. Rockefeller St. Brgy San Isidro, Makati City.
- Winners must claim their prizes within sixty (60) days from the receipt of notification, otherwise, they shall be forfeited in favor of Wellcom Telecom Supermarket with prior DTI approval.
- WELLCOM TELECOM SUPERMARKET and it's affiliates companies directors, officers, all employees, distributors, resellers, sponsor/partners and its advertising agencies and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join the promo.

2 YEARS WARRANTY Nokia Parts & Services

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3792 Series of 2006

NOKIA WELLCOM MP3 EXPRESS

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
5th Floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 633.8351 loc 171
1 (DOLBY) THE DEPARTED
2 (DOLBY) TALLADEGA NIGHTS
3 (DOLBY) GERMAN FILM FEST
4 (DOLBY) PULSE
PREMIERE
ZOOM / STEP UP

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 FLY BOYS
3 PULSE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)
1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 THE DEPARTED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 THE DEPARTED
3 TWILIGHT DANCERS
4 STEP UP

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 THE DEPARTED
2 FLY BOYS
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 ZOOM

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) STEP UP
2 (DOLBY) THE DEPARTED
3 (DOLBY) TALLADEGA NIGHT
4 (DOLBY) FLY BOYS

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 DOLBY DIGITAL EX FLY BOYS
5 TWILIGHT DANCERS

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 PULSE
3 THE BREED
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 (DOLBY) CRANK
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 (DOLBY) FLY BOYS
3 YOU ME & DUPREE
4 FIRST DAY HIGH

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 (DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 CRANK
3 (DOLBY) ZOOM
4 THE WICKER MAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 (DOLBY) STORMBREAKER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 FIRST DAY HIGH
2 BINIBINING K

THEATRES
1 SNAKE ON A PLANE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 ZOOM
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 THE DEPARTED
4 THE DEPARTED
5 FLY BOYS
6 PULSE
7 FIRST DAY HIGH
8 THE BREED
9 YOU ME & DUPREE
10 STEP UP

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 CRANK
2 PLEASE CALL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DOLBY) CRANK
WALANG DAYAAN AKIN ANG MALAKI
3 NAGLALAYAG
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) FIRST DAY HIGH
2 (DOLBY) PULSE
3 (DOLBY) THE DEPARTED
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) STAY ALIVE
2 SINFUL NIGHT
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 CRANK
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT-2

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 THE DEPARTED
3 FIRST DAY HIGH
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS
5 DEAD OR ALIVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 THE WICKER MAN
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ZOOM
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 MORTUARY
4 RESERVED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

A FRIEND SENT THEM AN EMAIL FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE.
NOW THE DEAD HAVE A DOORWAY TO OUR WORLD.

There are some frequencies we were never meant to find.

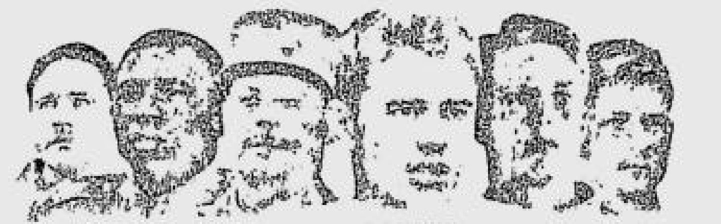
MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

#1 MOVIE IN MANILA
NO RULES. NO MERCY. NO SURRENDER.

DOA DEAD OR ALIVE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE TRANSPORTER"

2ND WEEK
MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

ALAMIN KUNG BAKIT
PINAG-USAPAN
NG BUONG MANILA.
HUWAG PALAMPASIN!



MARTIN HENDERSON · ABDUL SALIS · JEAN RENO · JAMES FRANCO · DAVID ELLISON · PHILIP WINCHESTER

FROM DEAN DEVLIN THE PRODUCER OF "GODZILLA" AND "INDEPENDENCE DAY"

FLYBOYS

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Joey's prized collections

From page F4

nagpunta na lang sa JOHN." I call these Joeyisms. Here's another one: "*May pulis, may tulis, may burlis.*" This is for my photos taken in Milan.

I also made clippings of the time I got suspended by the MTRCB (Movie and Television Review and Classification Board) as "Eat… Bulagal" host. Here's a caption: "*Ang lupit n'yo. Kawawa naman ako. Ano ngayon ang gagawin ko?*" (Then he shows pictures of his trips to Denmark, Germany, Sweden and in New York in the United States.) The succeeding caption says: "An ounce of suspension is worth a pound of tour."

JACKETS

I hardly use these jackets. Most of them are casino jackets that I bought as souvenirs. I also have jackets from all the casinos I've visited.

T-SHIRTS

I have a huge collection of T-shirts. What's good about them is that you can still wear them as you grow older. Sometimes, after not wearing the T-shirts for two to three years, I ask the house help to wash around six pieces. I then wear them in my TV appearances.

HATS

I also collect the hats and caps that I buy from all the countries that I've been to. They are mostly from Hard Rock.

MTRCB RATING ▸ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

ON ITS 3RD WEEK, STILL RAGING TERROR AT THE BOX OFFICE!

MAN'S BEST FRIEND IS HIS WORST NIGHTMARE.

A WES CRAVEN PRODUCTION

THE BREED

DIRECTED BY NICK MASTANDREA

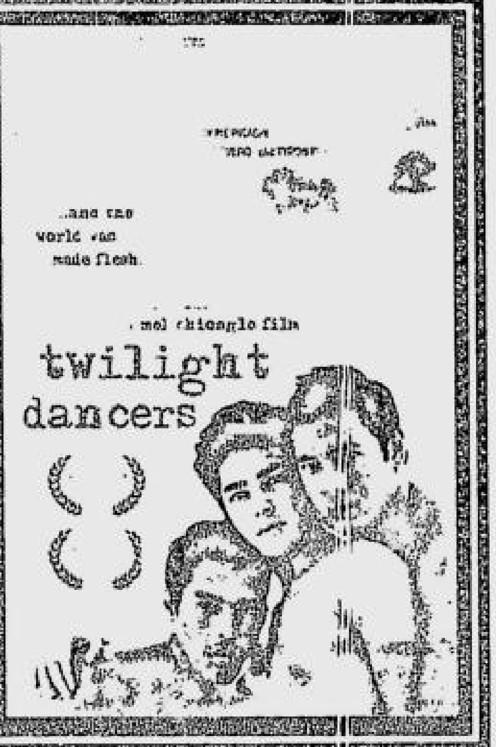
---

now showing
at Robinsons Movieworld
galleria • ermita • imus • dasmariñas
sta. rosa • las piñas • pampanga
angeles • iloilo

Twilight Dancers offers a disturbing yet humorous look at Philippine social realities through the eyes of three macho dancers. Dwight, young and at the peak of his trade, loses the girl he loves to a politician's son. Alfred, at 28, is past his prime and is kicked out of the club when the film starts. Berti, 30, has long since given up dancing and is now the bodyguard-driver of a corrupt yet jolly businesswoman Madame Loca.

starring
Cherry Pie Picache, Allen Dizon, Lauren Novero and Tyron Perez

MTRCB Rating: R-18
For Screening Schedule per cinema, contact our CINEMA ACCESS: 638-5655 or [illegible]
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com



ARANETA CENTER

Gateway Alimall FarmersPlaza

Araneta Center
SMASH DOWN SALE
UP TO 50% OFF
ON GREAT SELECTIONS
EXTENDED UNTIL OCT 8

BEFORE & AFTER SHOPPING DINE AT OVER 300 FOOD OUTLETS AROUND THE CENTER • COME EARLY & AVOID THE RUSH

For more information call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph & araneta[illegible]

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY · Gateway CINEPLEX*10 · DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

PULSE 1:30 / 3:35 / 5:40 / 7:45 / 9:50	THE DEPARTED 12:10 / 3:20 / 6:30 / 9:40	TALLADEGA NIGHTS 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
FLYBOYS 6:40 / 9:30	THE BREED 1:15 / 5:35 / 9:50	ZOOM 3:25 / 7:45 STEP UP 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30
FIRST DAY HIGH 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 12:40 / 2:40 / 4:40	DEAD OR ALIVE 25 / 3:30 / 5:35 / 7:40 / 9:45
THE DEPARTED 2:40 / 5:50 / 9:00		

ALIMALL 5

THE DEPARTED 1:40 / 4:50 / 8:00	PULSE 12:25 / 2:30 / 4:35 / 6:40 / 8:45	DEAD OR ALIVE 12:20 / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35 / 8:40
STEP UP 12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10	FIRST DAY HIGH 1:00 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:20	DOLBY DIGITAL · dts · SDDS

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 THE DEPARTED
MTRCB R-13
12.30, 3.40, 6.50, 10.00

2 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
MTRCB R-13
12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00

3 GERMAN FILM FEST
GOODBYE LENIN (R-13) 1.00
GO FOR ZUCKER 3.30, 7.40
(SUBJECT FOR MTRCB RATING)
SOUNDLESS (R-18) 5.30
THE OTHER FINAL (GP) 9:40

4 PULSE
MTRCB R-13
1.25, 3:30, 5.35, 7.40, 9:45

PREMIERE THEATRE
ZOOM / STEP UP
MTRCB GP — 1.30, 3.30, 5.30
MTRCB PG-13 — 7.30, 10.00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS

On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99.00 for Cinemas 1-4, P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)

Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, sneak previews and and in conjunction w/ other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos. Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details

Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3-0608, Series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

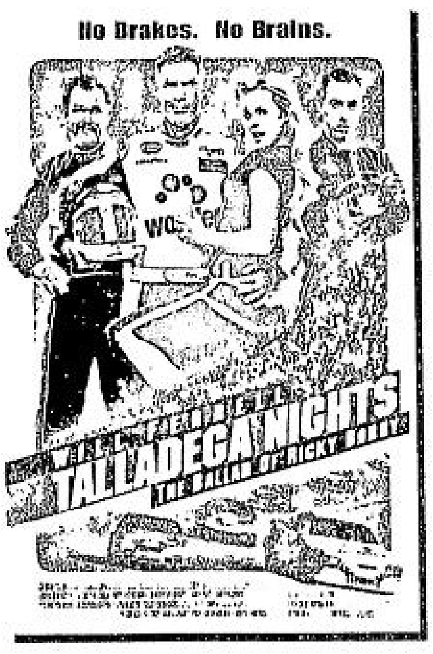
Shangri-La Plaza

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PULSE **R13** 12:30,2:30,4:30, 6:30,8:30	**THE DEPARTED** **R13** 2:10,5:10,8:10	**TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY** **R13** 1:10,3:25,5:40,7:55,10:10
FLYBOYS **PG13** 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00	**ZOOM** **G** 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	**THE DEPARTED** **R13** 1:30,4:30,7:30,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE: FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-14041
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – FREE SEATING – MONDAY-FRIDAY.



NOW SHOWING
at the
SHANG CINEPLEX

MTRCB RATING R-13

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market
Where You Find The Best.

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 ZOOM // FLY BOYS
11:20, 1:15, 3:10 // 5:00, 7:50, 10:35
GP//PG-13

CINEMA 2 PULSE
12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00
R13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 THE DEPARTED
12:40, 3:45, 6:50, 9:55
R-13

CINEMA 4 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
12:40, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:40
R-13

CINEMA 5 THE DEPARTED
10:20, 1:25, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
R-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496

MUSIC MUSEUM

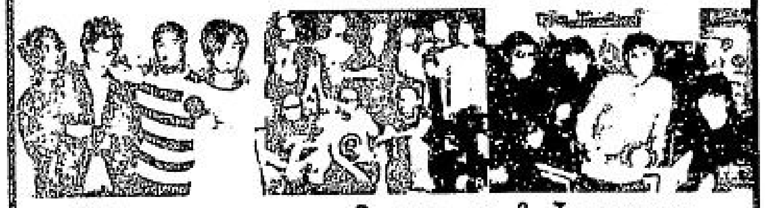
OCT 07, 2006	AKAFELLAS	8:00 PM
OCT 13, 2006	[illegible]	8:00 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO CLASSICO	8:00PM
OCT 05, 12, 20, 26	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA	8:30 PM
OCT 7, 14, 21, 2006	AYEN LAUREL & RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO	8:00 PM
	FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 118	

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0636

Eastwood City
presents



Rivermaya • Orange & Lemons
Brownman Revival • Itchy Worms

OKTOBERFEST
Eastwood City
687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8 LWCITY

Oct. 6, 2006 • 8:00 PM
Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 STEP UP
1:05, 3:05, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

2 THE DEPARTED
1:55, 5:05, 8:15, 11:15
R-13

3 TALLADEGA NIGHTS
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
R13

4 FLYBOYS
1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:50
PG-13

3RD WEEK

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

MANILA's MOST TALKED-ABOUT ROMANTIC-DANCE MOVIE

THE MOST INSPIRING UNDERDOG STORY OF THE YEAR!

HE'S SOMEONE NOBODY CARED ABOUT... UNTIL SHE CAME ALONG
AMERICA'S #1 HIT MOVIE!
Love begins with a first step.
Step Up
Channing Tatum Jenna Dewan
"SHE'S THE MAN" "TAKE THE LEAD"

---

glorietta · GREENBELT · ALABANG TOWN · AYALA CENTER CEBU · MARKET! MARKET! · Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

THX

G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	2 THE DEPARTED	3 PULSE	4 FIRST DAY HIGH
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3 THX CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 TALLADEGA NIGHTS	5 STEP-UP	6 THE DEPARTED	7 PULSE
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 STEP-UP	2 THE DEPARTED		
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX PELICULA: 5TH SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE DEPARTED GUARANTEED SEATS		
		3 PULSE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 FLYBOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE DEPARTED GUARANTEED SEATS	2 PULSE		
		3 STEP-UP	4 FLYBOYS	5 FIRST DAY HIGH	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE DEPARTED	2 SCOOP	3 THE BREED	4 FIRST DAY HIGH
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	2 THE DEPARTED		
		3 FIRST DAY HIGH	4 PULSE	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Anson's Exhibit October 5 to 21, 2006	Federal Hardware Exhibit Oct. 6 to 11, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Slimmer's Aerodance Marathon October 7, 2006	Call Center Job Fair October 6 to 7, 2006

GREENBELT — Cathay Pacific's Planes Exhibit
October 6 to 12

Greenbelt Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents
THE BOOR & THE PROPOSAL
at REP's Globe Theater - September 16 to October 8, 2006
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Homecoming of 21st Asian International Art Exhibition Philippines
September 19 to October 1, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

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PELICULA PELIKULA
THE 5TH SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

October 06, 2006, Greenbelt 3 Cinema 1

4:30PM	PERDER ES CUESTION DE METODO
7:30PM	VOLANDO VOY
9:30PM	PIEDRAS
12:00AM	AMOR IDIOTA

Instituto Cervantes
GREENBELT

Ayala Malls

ALL OUT FRIDAYS SALE
AT GLORIETTA 1

september 15 to october 27, 2006.
every Friday.

up to 70% OFF on selected items

Per DTI NCR Permit No. A1-699 Series of 2006

glorietta

Joey's prized collections

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Romy Homillada

A KEEPSAKE from his former network

JOEY DE LEON HAS FAR MORE INTERESTING stuff than clothes and shoes in his closet.

"I'm a collector of collections," the comedian-TV host told INQUIRER Living Stars during a recent visit to his home in Pasig City. "I'm very sentimental. I make sure I have something from all of the places I've visited."

OUT OF THE CLOSET

In his walk-in closet on the second floor are casino jackets and coats which he bought abroad as souvenirs, as well as volumes of scrapbooks and clippings of his travels, mostly during the 1980s and 1990s.

In the ground floor storeroom are more scrapbooks, his collection of shirts, casino chips, hotel keys and chains, expensive sculptures and paintings from artists like Ang Kiukok, Napoleon Oliva, Solomon Saprid and Ramon Orlina.

The pricey American-made wooden chest in the parlor contains Joey's collection of posters, movie stills and other publicity materials, while the cabinet by the living room, adorned with artist Antonio G. Austria's painting, is filled with his favorite CDs.

He said he recently purchased two four-deck fireproof drawers. "I'm in the process of arranging all my stuff in the storeroom."

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A CABINET adorned with artist Antonio G. Austria's painting is filled with his favorite CDs.

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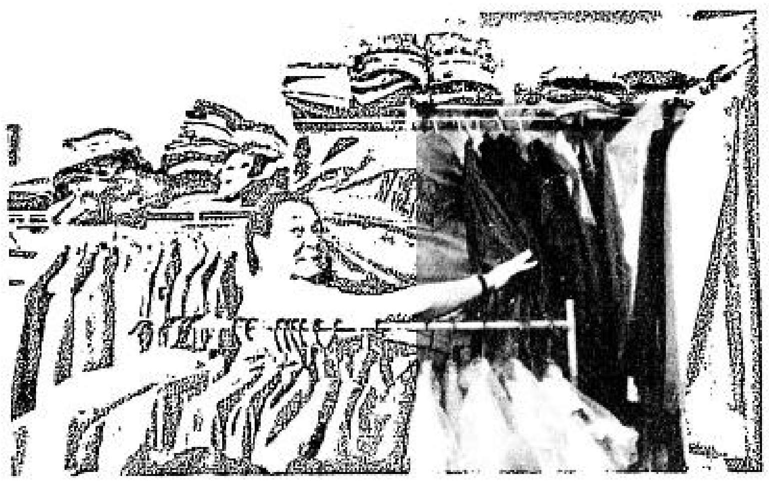

THE COLLECTOR of casino jackets believes that a good piece can last many years. "You can still wear them as you grow older," he says.

FOR JOEY'S birthday this year, he commissioned a sculptor to make images of the praying man.

SCULPTURES

My frog figurine collection has a story. When we first arrived in this house, we were greeted by a really huge frog that lived in a flower pot. When we came back after a week, it was gone. It was as if he was just guarding the place for us. I've been collecting frog figurines since then.

I'm currently collecting lead sculptures. A man named Alex sent me a letter in "Eat... Bulaga!" asking me to help him find a venue to exhibit his work. He never studied Art. He earns a living as a construction worker. He is sending one daughter to school. I like the samples he sent me. For my birthday this year, Alex is making sculptures of the praying man until the number reaches my present age.

PAINTINGS

I'm proud of my five-minute paintings. I painted them in 2001. They're hard to do. I used spray paint as medium. I don't think I can do this again today.

CASINO CHIPS

My travel buddy Danny Samonte and I collect casino chips from all our trips. I started this in 1983. My first chips are from Mexico. I travel just for the chips. That was why there were rumors before that I was a gambler. It's not true. I just collect chips.

HOTEL KEYS

Danny and I stayed in all the hotels in Las Vegas. I kept all the keys. I framed them with their matching casino chips and slot playing card. I used to go to Las Vegas four or five times a year for this. I stopped after having stayed in all of the hotels there.

ALBUMS AND CLIPPINGS

What I'm showing you right now are just reference guides to my trips in 1988 and 1989. I have a complete album for these trips. So I won't get confused, I use key words like "cruises," "kisses," or "pragams" for my travels to Prague.

Here are pictures of the suite of John Lennon and Yoko Ono in Amsterdam. This is where Lennon wrote the song "Give Peace a Chance."

Under our pictures, I put a caption that says: "*No'ng* first night *nila, sabi ni babae,* YOKO, *kaya si lalake,*

JOEY'S/ F2

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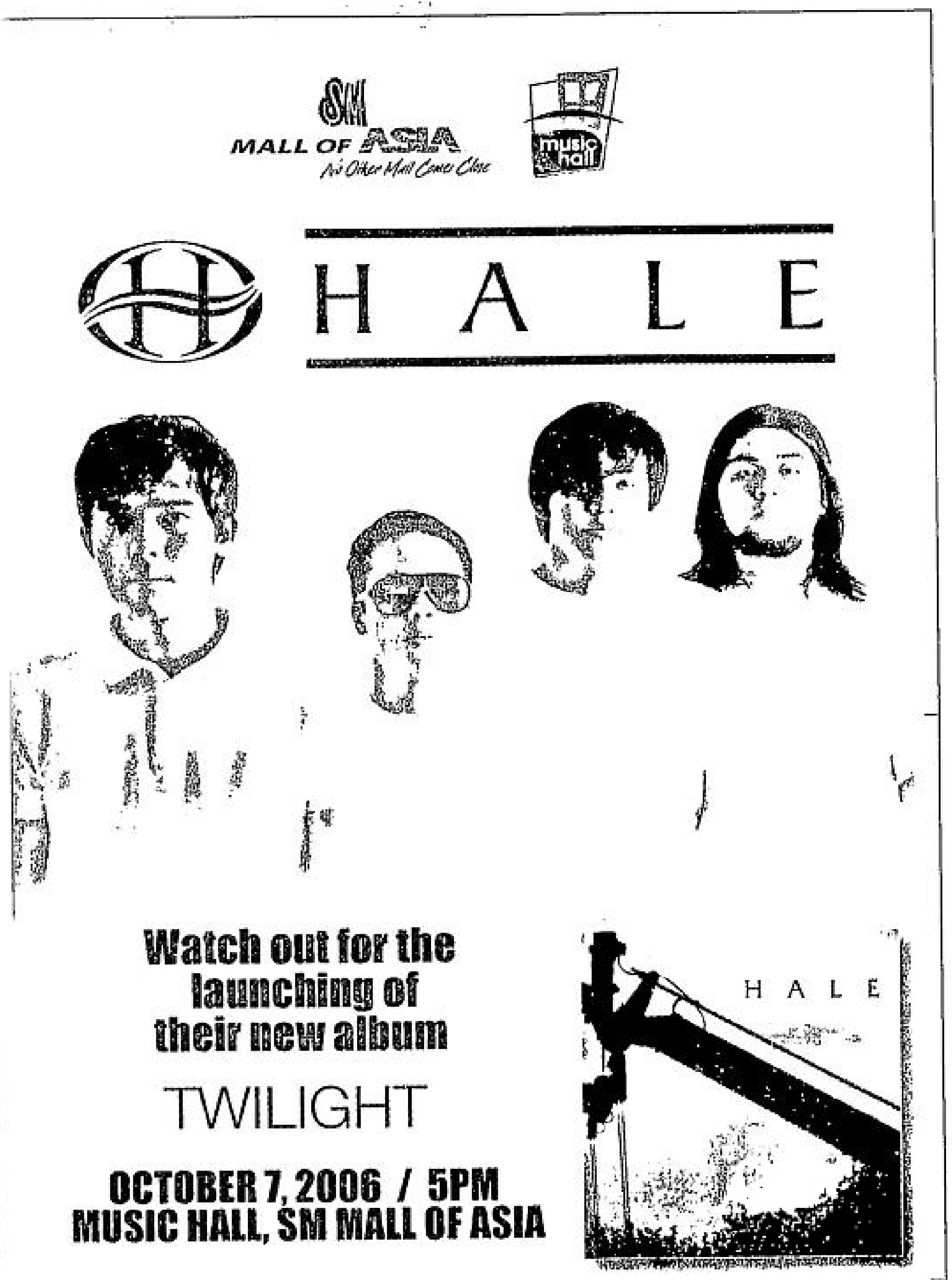
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